LIFE 2

STORY Nobuyuki Fukumoto × ART Kaiji Kawaguchi

68

生存 LIFE 2

原作 福本伸行 × 作画 かわぐちかいじ

講談社

Nobuyuki Fukumoto × Kaiji Kawaguchi
LIFE 2

Time is running out for Takeda to find his daughter's killer before he escapes the law once and for all. But to do that, our protagonist has to overcome his own suffering and follow the trail Sawaki left for him.

A father's unfailing love for his child leads him to the truth...

ILLUSTRATION: KAIJI KAWAGUCHI × COVER: AUTOR

原作 福本伸行 × 作画 かわぐちかいじ

2

Takeda learns that his daughter, Sawaki was killed 15 years ago, and starts investigation on his own. He finally finds the man who seems to be the killer, but he has no proof ....

LiFE

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雑誌 41450-68
ISBN4-06-346068-1
9784063460681
C9979 ¥505E (0)
1929979005054
アフタヌーン 講談社
定価：本体505円（税別）

Nobuyuki Fukumoto × Kaiji Kawaguchi

LiFE

2

Nobuyuki Fukumoto × Kaiji Kawaguchi
STORY ART

生存 LIFE 2

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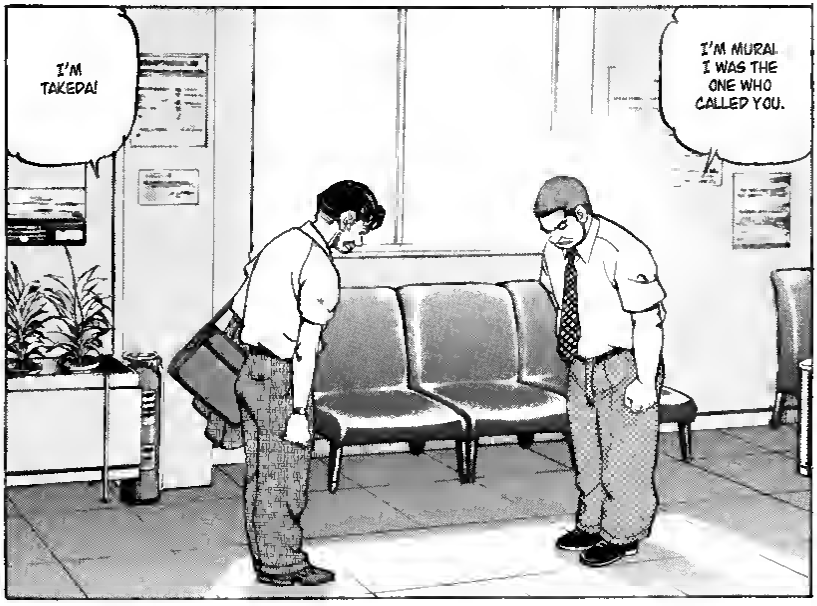
kotonoha.monkey-pirate.com

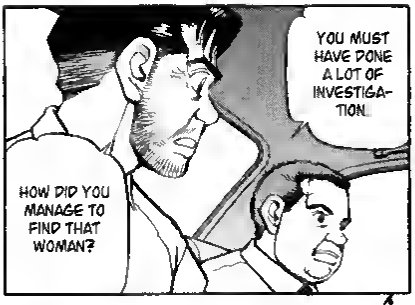
A witness claims to have met your daughter the day she disappeared 14 years ago
Murai speaking... We received a phone call today...
This person can probably provide us with crucial information about the case.

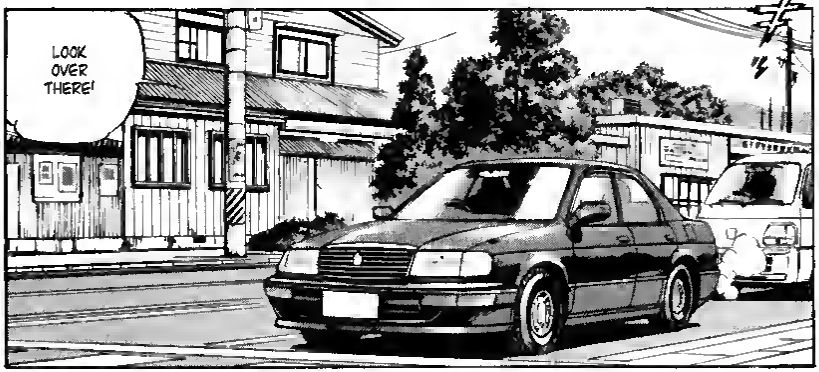
Nagano prefecture, N City's Central Police Station


I'M TAKEDA!
I'M MURAI. I WAS THE ONE WHO CALLED YOU.

VERY WELL--LET'S GO! THE WITNESS'S NAME IS KATOH SHE LIVES IN YOSHIOKA.
OK.
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.
NOT AT ALL...

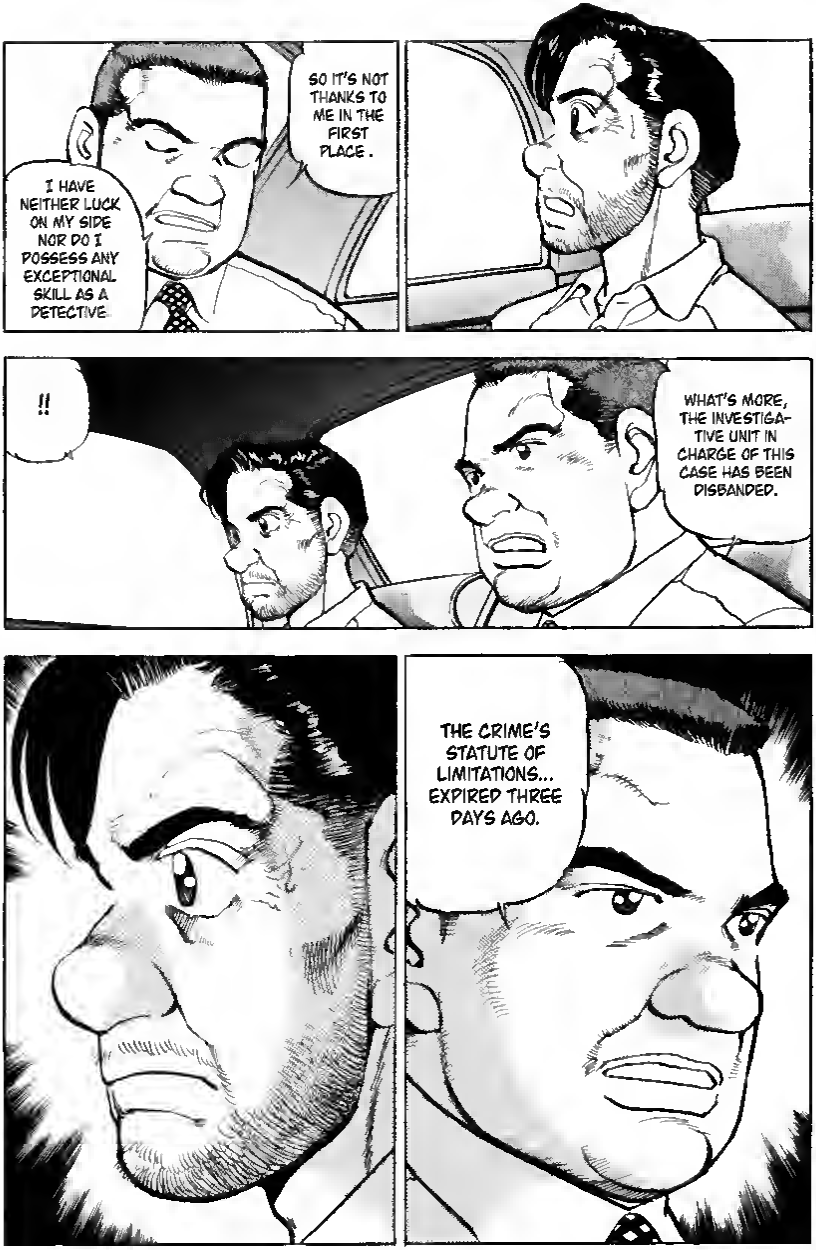
I DIDN'T ACTUALLY INVEST!-GATE...


YOU MUST HAVE DONE A LOT OF INVESTIGA-TION.
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO FIND THAT WOMAN?

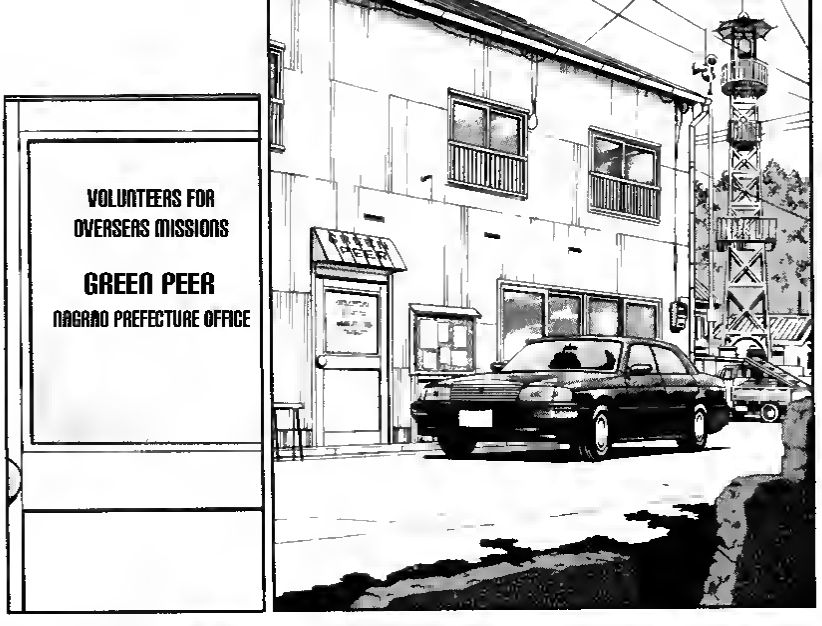

LOOK OVER THERE!

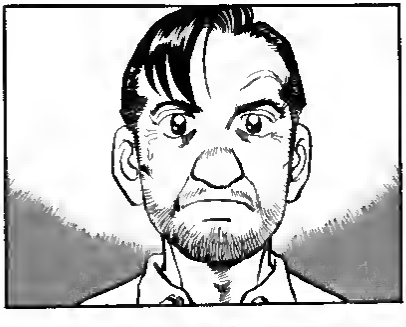
A 14-year-old murder!!
The victim:
Sawako Takeda
(Aged 14 at the time of the crime)
If you have any information pertaining to this case, please contact N City's Central Police Station!
Disappeared on the 16th of September 1984
• Around 155 cm tall
• Fair complexion, slender build, short hair
• Wore a deep blue sweatshirt and a pair of jeans, carried a backpack
• Had a silver ring on her left hand (with the number 428 engraved inside)

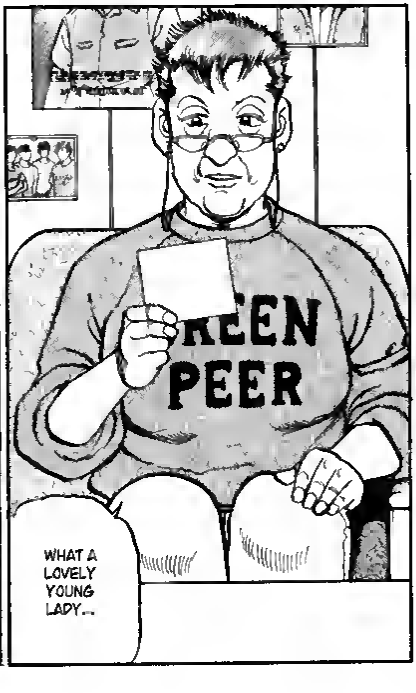
HUH?
SHE CON-TACTED US AFTER SEEING ONE OF THOSE POSTERS.


I HAVE NEITHER LUCK ON MY SIDE NOR DO I POSSESS ANY EXCEPTIONAL SKILL AS A DETECTIVE.
SO IT'S NOT THANKS TO ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.
!!
WHAT'S MORE, THE INVESTIGATIVE UNIT IN CHARGE OF THIS CASE HAS BEEN DISBANDED.
THE CRIME'S STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS... EXPIRED THREE DAYS AGO.

BUT AS YOU YOURSELF KNOW, THIS ONLY APPLIES IF THE CRIMINAL DID NOT GO ABROAD DURING THOSE 15 YEARS.
...STILL HOPE!
THERE IS


VOLUNTEERS FOR
OVERSEAS MISSIONS
GREEN PEER
NAGANO PREFECTURE OFFICE

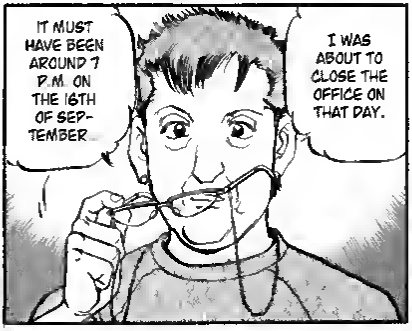


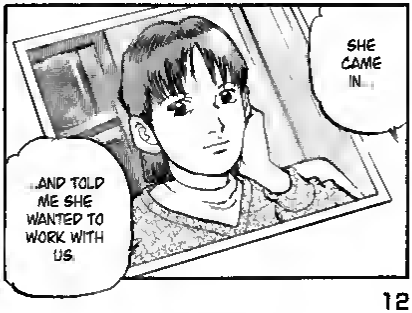

REEN
PEER
WHAT A LOVELY YOUNG LADY...

...TO BE HONEST, I NO LONGER REMEMBER HER FACE...
BUT...

...!!
YET THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SHE WAS THE ONE.

MY DAUGHTER... SAID THAT..?


IT MUST HAVE BEEN AROUND 7 P.M. ON THE 16TH OF SEP-TEMBER...
I WAS ABOUT TO CLOSE THE OFFICE ON THAT DAY.

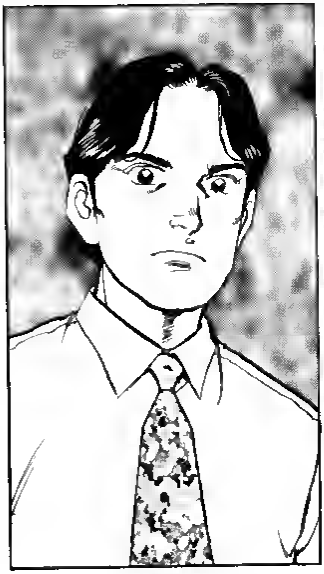

SHE CAME IN...
...AND TOLD ME SHE WANTED TO WORK WITH US.

SHE FELL SILENT FOR A MOMENT AND THEN SAID "OK"...
...SO I TOLD HER TO COME BACK WITH HER PARENTS' PERMISSION.
YES... BUT SHE WAS STILL A MINOR...
A MEMBERSHIP NUMBER?
BUT SHE STILL SIGNED UP AND I GAVE HER A MEMBERSHIP NUMBER.
THAT'S WHEN WE SELL THEM THIS RING WITH THEIR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER ENGRAVED ON IT FOR 3000 YEN.
YOU SEE, WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF EASYGOING JUVENILES WHO HAVE NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF PARTICIPATING IN OUR ACTIVITIES BUT WHO MERELY WANT TO TALK.
THAT'S WHY WE ONLY HAVE A SERIOUS CONVERSATION WITH THEM ONCE THEY BECOME MEMBERS.
WE'VE BEEN DOING THAT FOR 20 YEARS.

LIKE I SAID, I DON'T REMEMBER THE GIRL'S FACE, BUT THIS RING IS SOMETHING I CAN'T FORGET.
...YOU MENTION IT.
BELOW THE PICTURE ON THIS POSTER THAT YOU AFFIXED TO THE ELECTRIC-ITY POLES...
GREEN PEER
THAT... THAT RING!!
!!
428

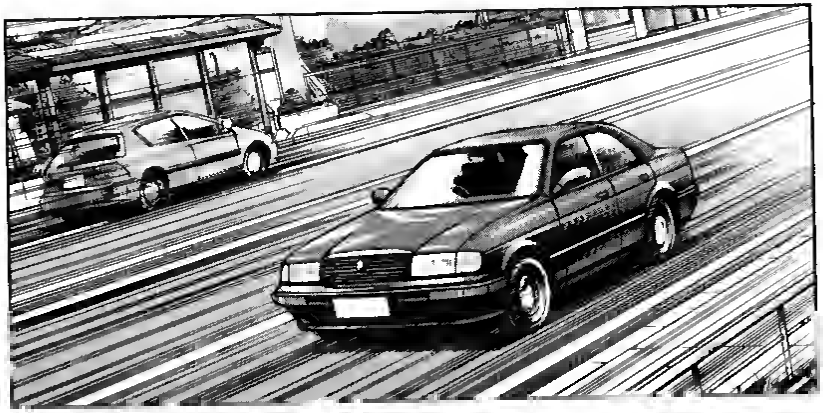
IT DOES HAVE A NUMBER ENGRAVED ON THE INSIDE...
I PICKED IT UP AS PART OF MY DAUGHTER'S PERSONAL EFFECTS...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I ONLY REMEMBER VAGUELY AROUND WHAT TIME SHE CAME
SO I CALLED.
ONE OF OUR STAFF SAW THIS POSTER AND THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE ONE OF OUR RINGS ..
TELL ME...
APPROXI-MATELY SPEAKING, THAT IS...
HOWEVER, SHE WAS THE LAST PERSON WHOM I GAVE A RING ON THAT DAY, SO...
...SHE MUST HAVE COME JUST BEFORE CLOSING TIME

I ALREADY TOLD THE DETECTIVE HERE...
THE GIRL WAS ALONE WHEN SHE CAME INTO OUR OFFICE...
WELL..
WAS THERE ANYBODY ELSE WITH HER?
AND THEN.
...BECAUSE IT WAS LATE, I WAS A BIT WORRIED... I RECALL ASKING HER WHAT SHE WAS DOING AFTERWARDS.
BUT...
...SHE SAID THAT ONE OF HER FATHER'S FRIENDS WAS COMING TO PICK HER UP.

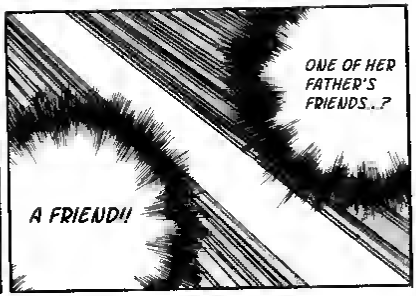


THAT REASSURED ME.

I WOULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED SOMETHING SO TERRIBLE HAPPENING



JUST AS I THOUGHT
SHE KNEW HIM!!


ONE OF HER FATHER'S FRIENDS..?
A FRIEND!!

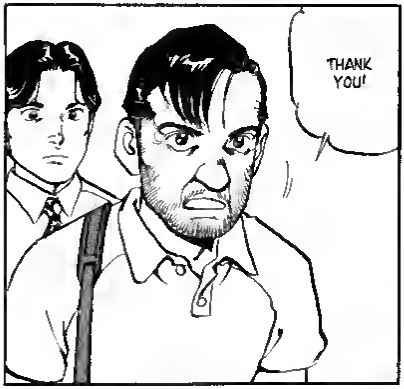
BUT WHO IS IT?

SHE KNEW HIM. SHE DEFINITELY DID!!
MY DAUGHTER WOULD NEVER HAVE TRUSTED A STRANGER EVEN IF HE PRETENDED TO BE ONE OF MY FRIENDS!!

YOU WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG, MR. TAKEDA.
WE OWE YOU AN APOLOGY.
!!
BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY EARLIER THAT THE INVESTIGATIVE UNIT HAD BEEN DISBANDED?
FROM NOW ON I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO HELP YOU
I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT AN INCOMPETENT MAN LIKE ME CAN ACCOMPLISH
SO PLEASE DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH.
WELL... I WILL BE THE ONLY ONE TO HELP YOU .

...BUT I WILL DO EVERY-THING I CAN!!
WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?
I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT...
...OF A MURDERER LIVING FREELY AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED!

I APPRECIATE YOUR ACCEPTING TO DRIVE MR. TAKEDA BACK TO THE TRAIN STATION, KISHIKAWA.
NO PROBLEM.


THANK YOU!

I'LL CALL YOU AS SOON AS I HAVE SOME NEWS.
WELL THEN--TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

MURAI LOST SOME THE SAME WAY...

TWO CRIMINALS... DUE TO THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS...
I'M SORRY?
HE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH CONCLUSIVE PROOF TO BRING A CHARGE AGAINST THEM
!!
WITHOUT PROOF OUR HANDS ARE TIED!
...BUT WE COULDN'T BRING THEM TO JUSTICE.
BOTH MURAI AND I WERE CONVINCED THAT THOSE MEN WERE GUILTY...

EVEN IF I IDENTIFY THE KILLER, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH...
HE'S RIGHT...
JR長野駅
OH... DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE...
...FOR HAVING BEEN SO RUDE TO YOU.
YES? WHAT?
MR. TAKEDA...

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE NUMBER OF YOUR DAUGHTER'S POSTERS.
MULTI-PLIED BY FIVE...?
MURAI MANAGED TO HAVE IT MULTIPLIED BY FIVE.
...HE ALSO SAID THAT SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MOVED BY CAR AND INSISTED TO OUR SUPERIOR THAT WE DISTRIB-UTE THE POSTER IN THE ENTIRE PREFECTURE.
HE DIDN'T ONLY HAVE THEM PUT UP WHERE WE FOUND HER REMAINS AND AROUND THE MUSEUM...

HE IS REALLY TRYING HIS BEST, MR. TAKEDA.
GOOD-BYE.

生存
Life
Fukumoto Nobuyuki ✖ Kawaguchi Kaiji

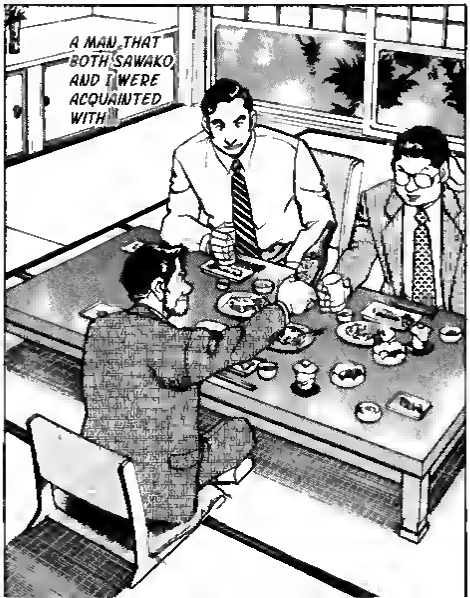
生存
LifE

Fukumoto Nobuyuki×Kawaguchi Kaiji

SUGAR

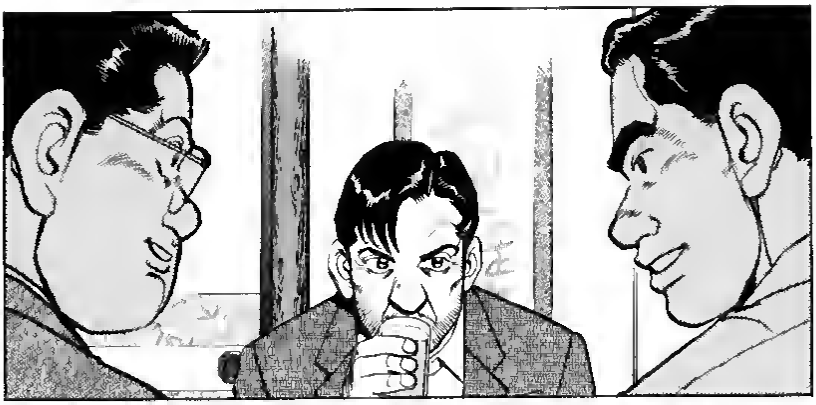
4F
COFFEE
シュガー
HOUSE
SUGAR

SHE KNEW HIM...

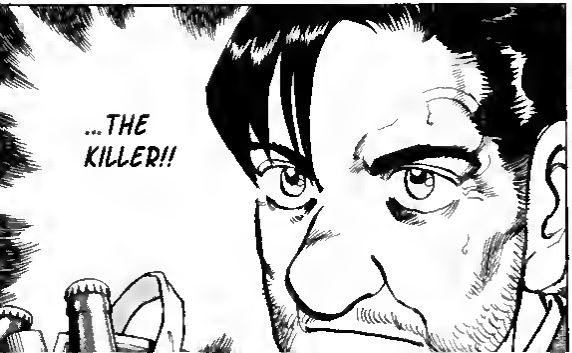

A MAN THAT BOTH SAWAKO AND I WERE ACQUAINTED WITH!!

IT WAS SOMEONE WHO HAD ALREADY VISITED OUR HOUSE...

THAT INCLUDES ALL OF MY STAFF FROM THAT TIME...

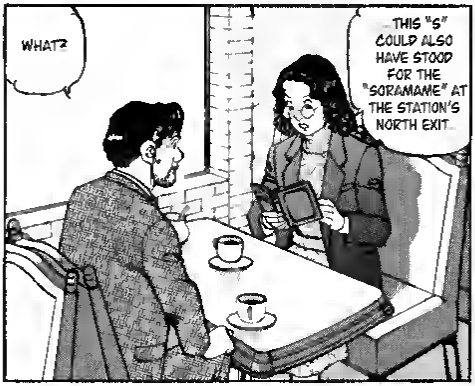


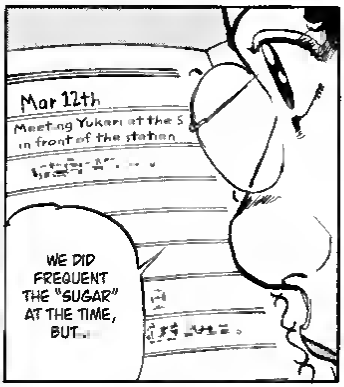
...COULD BE...
ONE OF THEM...

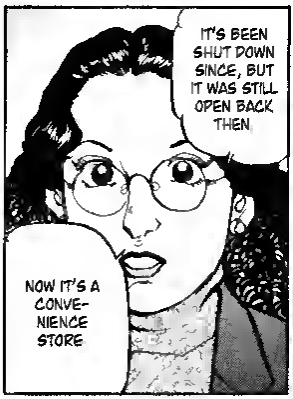

...THE KILLER!!

HUH?
MAY I HAVE A LOOK?

SHE ALWAYS WENT ALTERNATELY TO THE "SUGAR" AND THE "TOMORROW"..
TOMORROW


WHAT?
...THIS "S" COULD ALSO HAVE STOOD FOR THE "SORAMAME" AT THE STATION'S NORTH EXIT...


Mar 12th
WE DID FREQUENT THE "SUGAR" AT THE TIME, BUT...

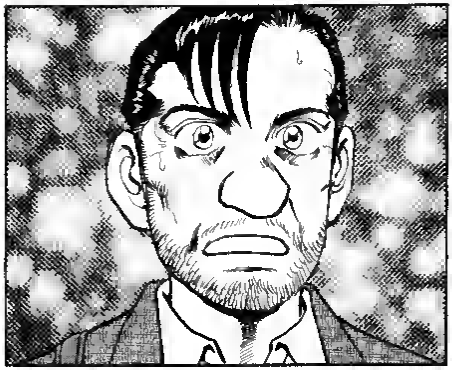

IT'S BEEN SHUT DOWN SINCE, BUT IT WAS STILL OPEN BACK THEN.
NOW IT'S A CONVENIENCE STORE

I DIDN'T KNOW SUCH A COFFEE SHOP EXISTED...

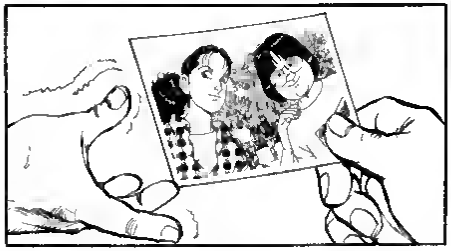
SUN FAMILY
フライドチキン
YEAH...
UM...
!!
SHE DID COME TO THE COFFEE SHOP FROM TIME TO TIME.
THERE WAS A GUY WHO ALWAYS TRIED HARD TO MAKE A MOVE ON HER
SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE ONE OF THOSE, BUT...
AND WHEN SHE DID, DID YOU SEE ANY MALE FRIEND WITH HER?
BUT . 2

HMM--THIS MAN WHO OWNS A BUILDING, MASAHIRO SATOH..
IT'S HIS SON WE'RE TALKING ABOUT-- A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING.
YOU DON'T KNOW HIM? HE LIVES IN THIS NEIGH-BORHOOD...
WHO... WAS IT?
THAT'S IT! YUTA SATOH!
I THINK HIS NAME WAS..
..YUTA OR SOME-THING.
!!

YUTA?
HIS OLD CARS?
YEP, YEP, HE HAD A FEW. HIS PARENTS HAVE BEEN BUYING HIM NEW CARS SINCE HE WAS 18.
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
YEAH ..
NAH, CAN'T REMEMBER THE BRAND.
I THINK THE FIRST ONE WAS A COROLLA. THE SECOND ONE WAS A FOREIGN BRAND... WHAT DID HE CALL IT AGAIN?
ERR..
WAS IT IN THIS COLOR?

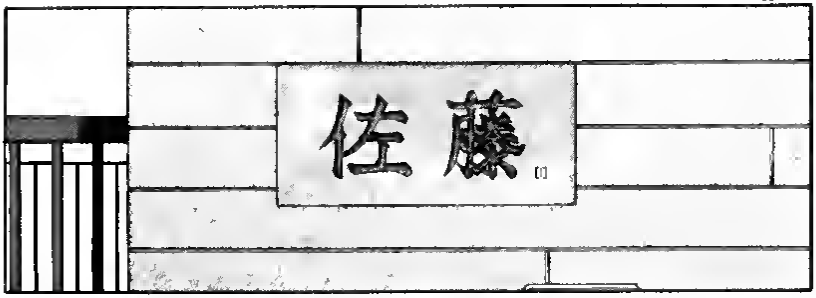


YEAH, THAT'S IT!
NOT A COLOR YOU'D SEE ON JAPANESE CARS, RIGHT?

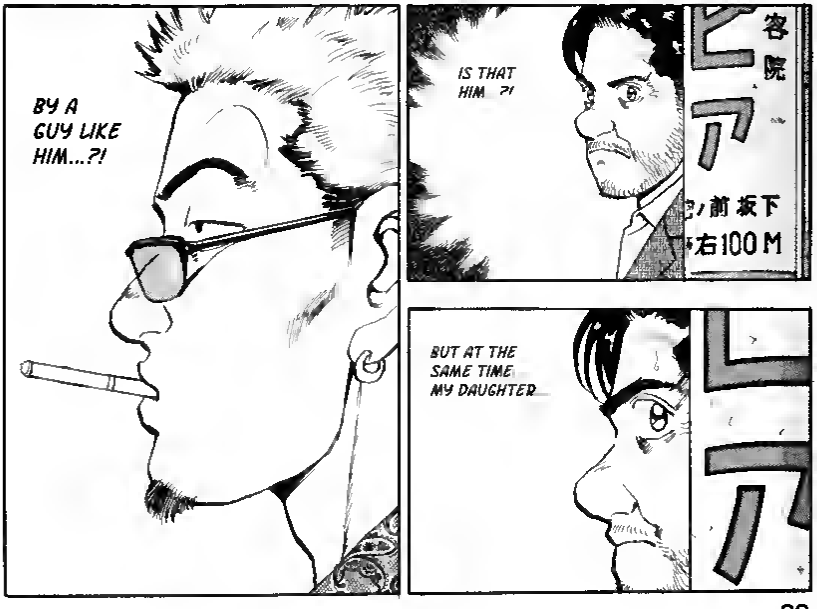


...HIM?!

FINALLY... HAVE I FINALLY FOUND...


佐藤
[1]

ピア


BY A GUY LIKE HIM...?!
IS THAT HIM ?!
客院
ヒア
前坂下
右100M
BUT AT THE SAME TIME MY DAUGHTER...
ヒア

IT'S TOO EARLY TO CONFRONT HIM FACE TO FACE
IN ANY CASE, I CAN'T TAKE ANY OPEN ACTION YET
I NEED PROOF!
I NEED TO MAKE SURE HE IS THE KILLER
I HAVE TO GATHER AS MUCH PROOF AS POSSIBLE!!
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN...?
THE CAR HE DROVE AT THE TIME?
YUTA SATOH?
OH! YOU MEAN THAT LOSER.

A CAMARO?
IT WAS...
IT WAS A CAMARO! REMEMBER? HE WOULDN'T STOP BRAGGING ABOUT IT!
OH YEAH! AND IT WAS INDEED PAINTED IN BLUE...
A LIGHT BLUE CAMARO!!
I MIGHT LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...
IF I TRACK DOWN THAT CAR...

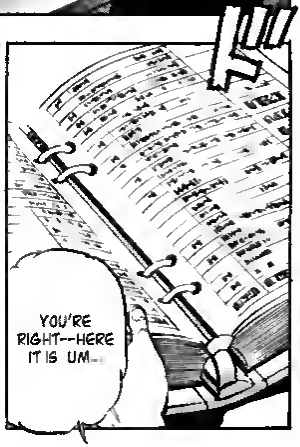
YOU WANT TO KNOW IF WE TOOK THE OLD CAR FROM MR. SATOH AS A TRADE-IN WHEN WE SOLD HIM THE NEW ONE?
BMW Japan

JUST A MINUTE, PLEASE.

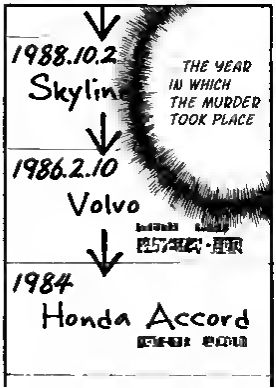
THANK YOU.

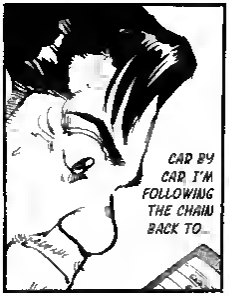
I'M SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU... OUR DIRECTOR JUST REMEMBERED THAT HE HID THE KEY OF A SAFE-DEPOSIT BOX INSIDE THAT CAR.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S STILL THERE, THOUGH...

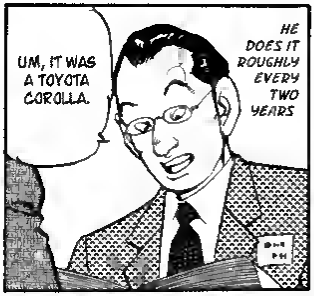
5X-X2. GOT IT.
A CROWN '95, BLACK, LICENSE PLATE NUMBER 5X-X2.


YOU'RE RIGHT--HERE IT IS. UM...

MODEL YEAR '93, COLOR RED...
THE LICENSE PLATE NUMBER...
HMM... THE CAR HE TRADED IN WAS... A PORSCHE.
...IS 3X-ZX
HE KEEPS BUYING THEM FROM THE LOCAL SECOND HAND CAR DEALERS, EACH TIME FROM A DIFFERENT ONE.
CARS HAVE BEEN A HOBBY FOR SATOH SINCE HE WAS YOUNG
420
商談中


1988.10.2
Skyline
THE YEAR IN WHICH THE MURDER TOOK PLACE
1986.2.10
Volvo
1984
Honda Accord

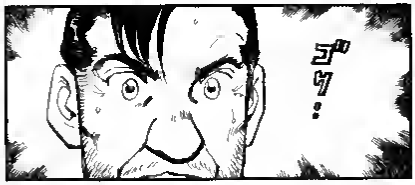

CAR BY CAR I'M FOLLOWING THE CHAIN BACK TO...


UM, IT WAS A TOYOTA COROLLA.
HE DOES IT ROUGHLY EVERY TWO YEARS

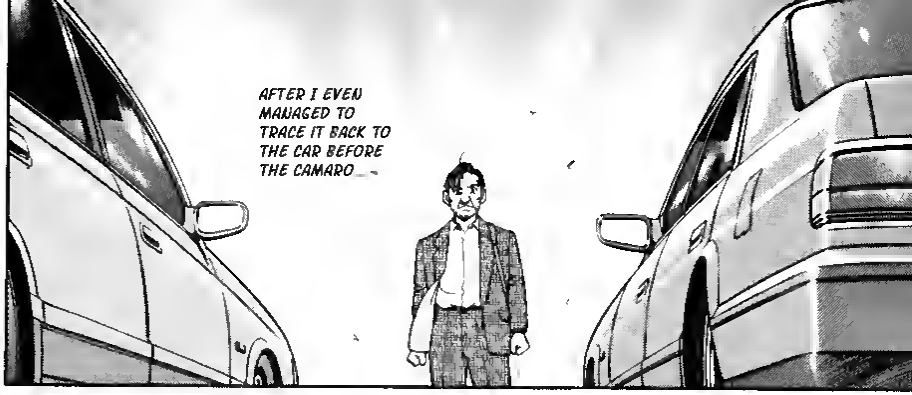
YES, WE DID SELL HIM THAT HONDA
UM--THE DEAL WE MADE WITH MR. SATOH AT THE END OF THE YEAR IS YEARS AGO?
ALL NEW
IN

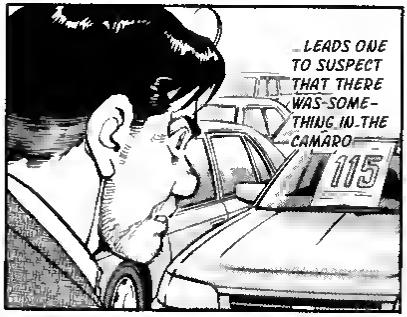
... I ONLY SEE A PURCHASE HERE...

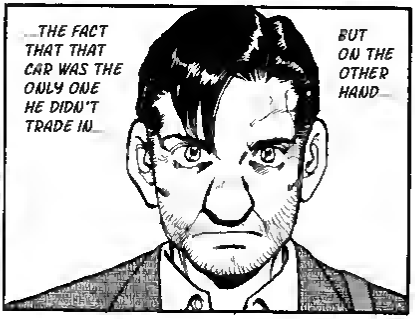
YES
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHICH CAR HE TRADED IN FOR THAT, RIGHT?

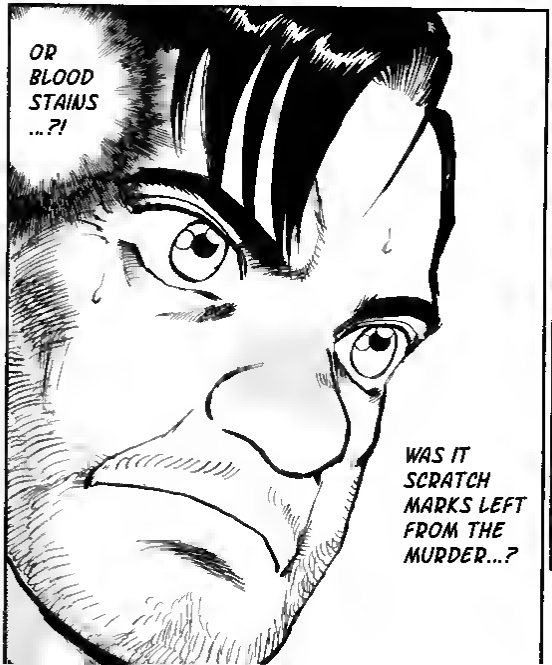

ｼﾞｰｯ!

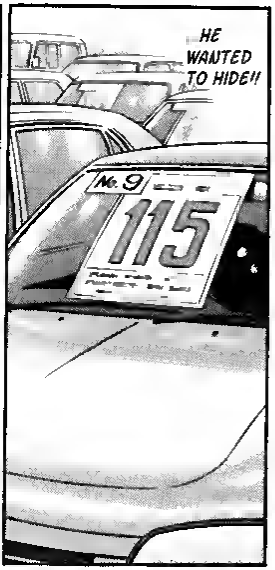
WHAT ?
THERE WAS NO TRADE-IN--HE JUST PAID CASH FOR THE CAR


AFTER I EVEN MANAGED TO TRACE IT BACK TO THE CAR BEFORE THE CAMARO...


...LEADS ONE TO SUSPECT THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE CAMARO...
115


...THE FACT THAT THAT CAR WAS THE ONLY ONE HE DIDN'T TRADE IN...
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...


OR BLOOD STAINS ...?!
WAS IT SCRATCH MARKS LEFT FROM THE MURDER...?


...HE WANTED TO HIDE!!
No. 9
115

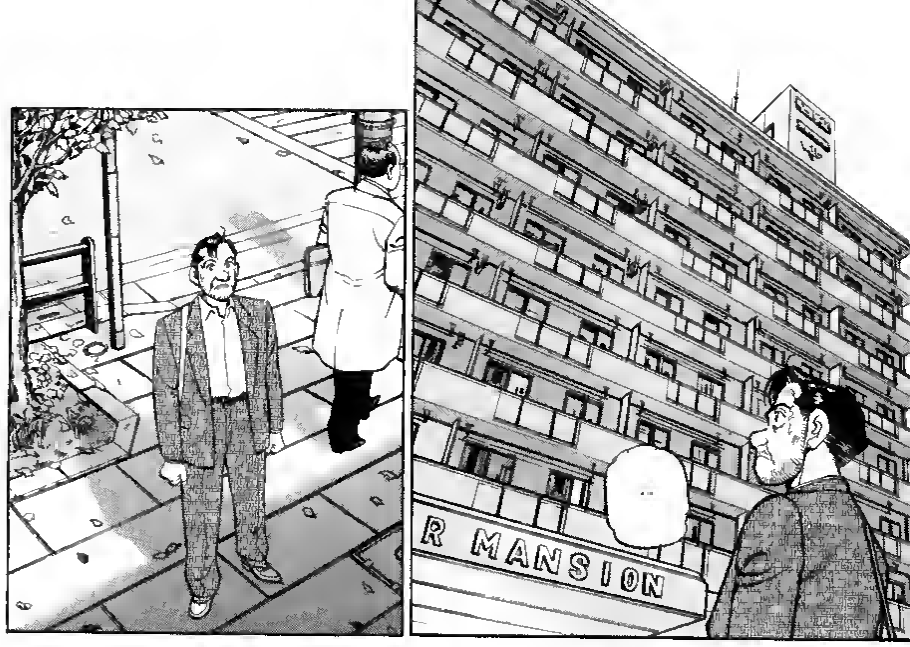
SOME-
THING
MUST BE
THERE!!
-SOME-
THING...!

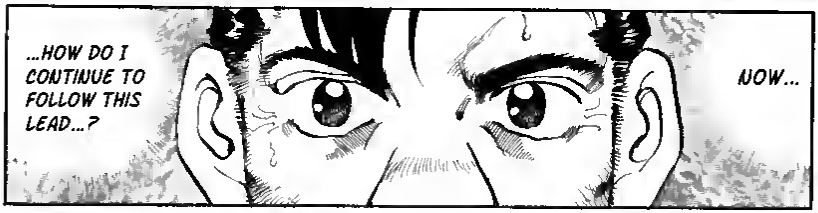
IF HE DUMPED IT SOMEWHERE, IT'D BE OVER.
IF HE PUT IT IN A SCRAP YARD 15 YEARS AGO...
BUT HE CER-TAINLY DIDN'T DO THAT.
..IT'D MEAN THAT SOMEONE MUST HAVE REGISTERED THE CAMARO.
HE MUST HAVE PLANNED TO HAVE THE WHOLE CAR TURNED INTO SCRAP METAL!!
NOT TO A CAR THAT STILL BORE TRACES OF HIS CRIME.
HIS BEST BET WOULD BE TO DESTROY IT!
HE COULDN'T SIMPLY DUMP OR ABANDON IT, NOT EVEN AT THE BOTTOM OF A VALLEY DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS.

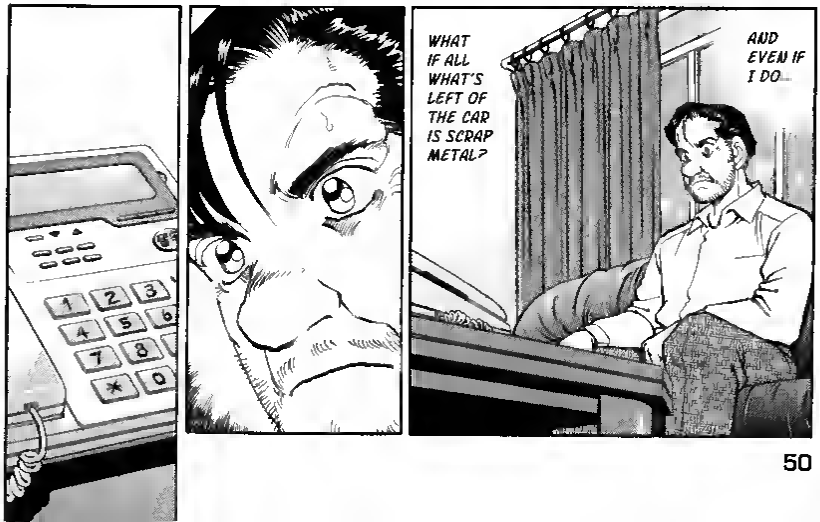
...MY INVESTIGATION WOULD END HERE
IF THAT WAS WHAT HAPPENED...
>UH...<
BUT IF THE CAR STILL EXISTS, IF IT HASN'T BEEN DESTROYED...
IF FOR SOME REASON IT HASN'T BEEN SCRAPPED..
>HUFF!<
>HUFF!<
>HUFF...<
...THEN I WILL HAVE THE IRREFUTABLE PROOF!!
>HNG<
>HNG<
>HNG<
>HNG<

Yeah...
That rings a bell. .
DID YOU BUY IT OFF THE SELLER?!
Nakano Second-Hand Cars
03-□□□□-□□□□
A blue Camaro ...?
AND... IS IT...
Yeah, I'm pretty sure we did...
It was destroyed a long time ago.
We couldn't sell it.

DO YOU KNOW THE NAME OF THE SCRAP DEALER IN QUESTION?
WERE YOU IN CHARGE OF THAT?
No, we're not a scrap yard, so we subcontract that kind of work to specialized scrap dealers.
I do, but...
...he shut down his business three years ago.
I'm not sure if you can even reach him now...
UM..
JUST IN CASE, COULD YOU TELL ME THE ADDRESS OF THAT SCRAP YARD?
PLEASE!


R MANSION


...HOW DO I CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS LEAD...?
NOW...


WHAT IF ALL WHAT'S LEFT OF THE CAR IS SCRAP METAL?
AND EVEN IF I DO...

ALL RIGHT, I GOT IT.
OK... OK... AND THE NAME OF THAT SCRAP DEALER IS...?
DON'T LOSE HEART, MR. TAKEDA!
I WILL FOLLOW IT UP.
WHAT?!
This is Murai... Mr Takeda, I found the scrap dealer.

From there it was a short step to locating his whereabouts.
T-THANK YOU!
IT TURNED OUT WE ARRESTED HIM ONCE FOR ILLEGAL DUMPING OF CARS. WELL, I GUESS WE WERE LUCKY THAT GUY WASN'T CLEAN.
HE DIDN'T REMEMBER, BUT WHEN I TOLD HIM THE TIME FRAME...
...HE SAID THERE WAS A CHANCE THE CAR HAD NOT BEEN DESTROYED YET...
AND...
WHAT ABOUT THE CAMARO... THE CAR?!
WE STILL HAVE... A CHANCE!!
We are still in the game, Mr. Takeda!

生存
Life
Fukumoto Nobuyuki ✖ Kawaguchi Kaiji

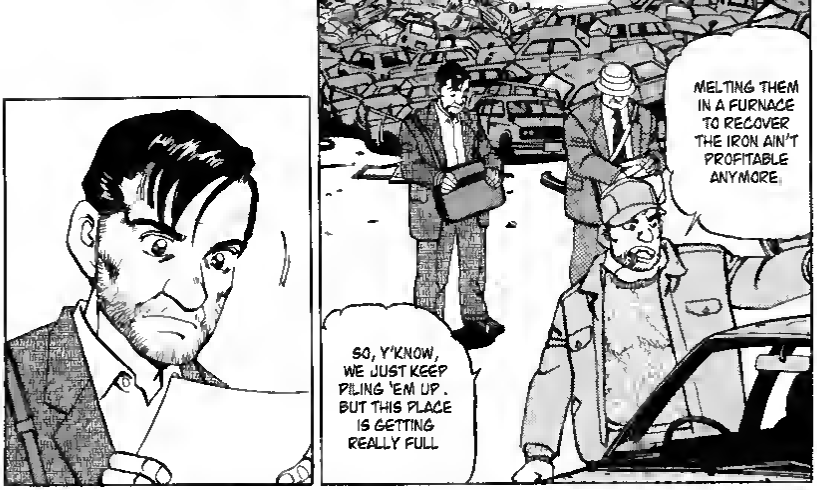
ITS COLOR IS BLUE...
BLUE... EH?
CAMARO ...
A CAMARO, EH...?
...THEN IT SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE IN THAT AREA.
IF IT WAS FROM 15 YEARS AGO...

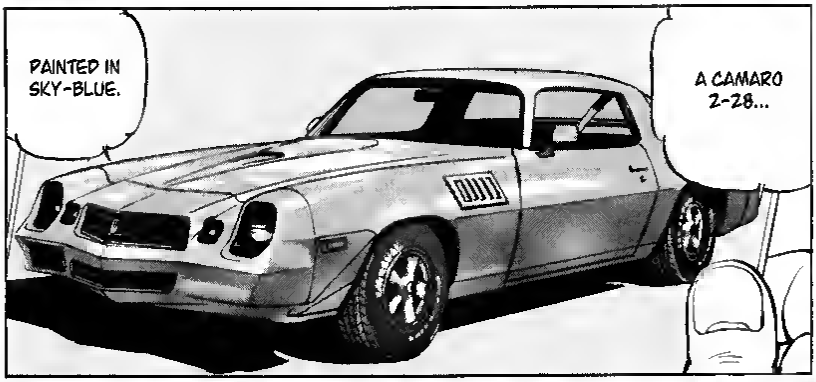
生存
LifE
Fukumoto Nobuyuki ✖ Kawaguchi Kaiji

IT'S...

...A CAR GRAVE-YARD.

NOT TO MENTION THAT IT'S A REAL PAIN REMOVING THE ENGINES AND THE TIRES.
THESE DAYS IT COSTS A CHUNK O' CHANGE EVEN TO CRUSH 'EM.


SO, Y'KNOW, WE JUST KEEP PILING 'EM UP. BUT THIS PLACE IS GETTING REALLY FULL
MELTING THEM IN A FURNACE TO RECOVER THE IRON AIN'T PROFITABLE ANYMORE.

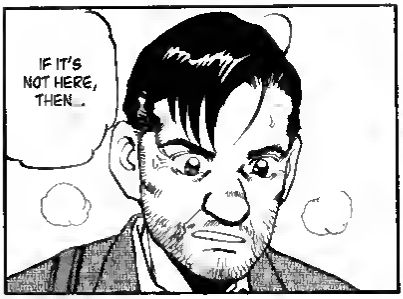

A CAMARO Z-28...
PAINTED IN SKY-BLUE.

LET'S GET TO IT!
OK!

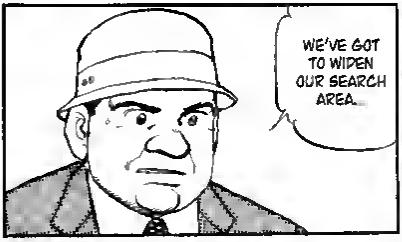
LET'S HOPE IT'S STILL HERE...

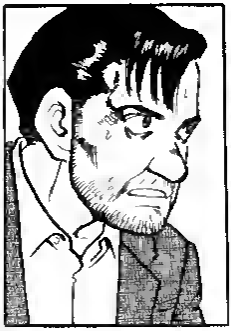
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, MR TAKEDA!
I WILL!
IT'S LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK...
THAT'S NOT IT...

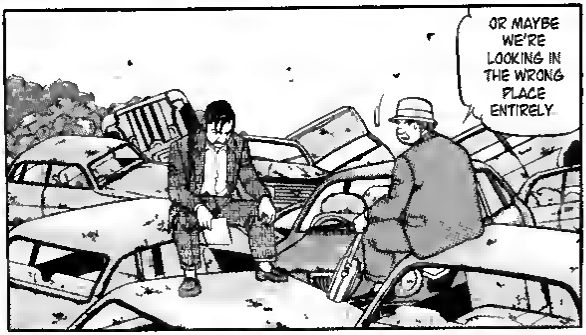
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
THAT COLOR!!
HM?
MR. MURAI!
THAT CAR--IT'S COLOR IS SKY-BLUE!


IF IT'S NOT HERE, THEN...

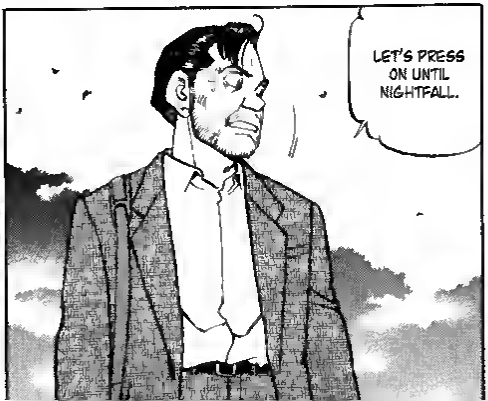
THE COLOR IS THE SAME, BUT...


WE'VE GOT TO WIDEN OUR SEARCH AREA.



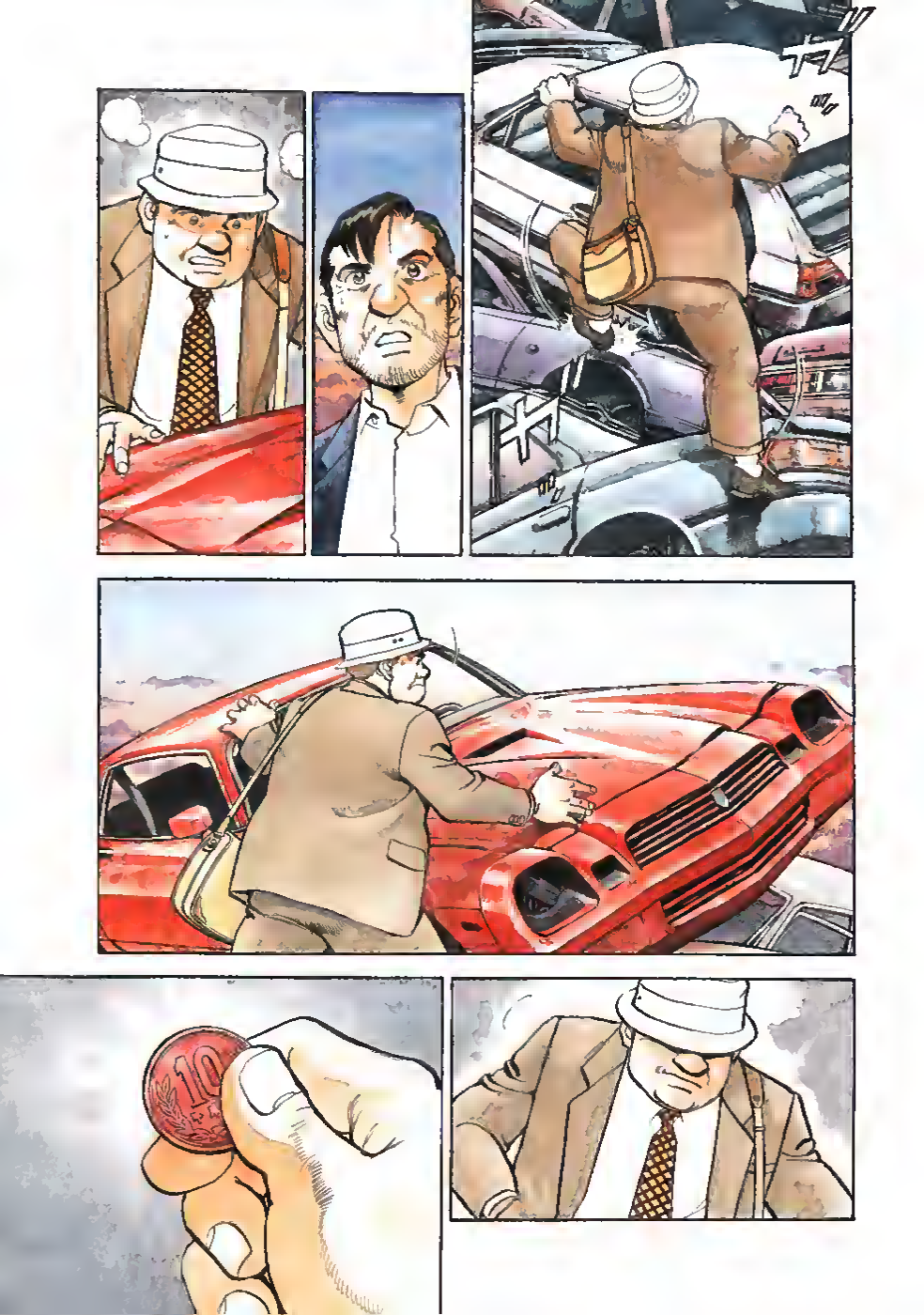

OR MAYBE WE'RE LOOKING IN THE WRONG PLACE ENTIRELY.

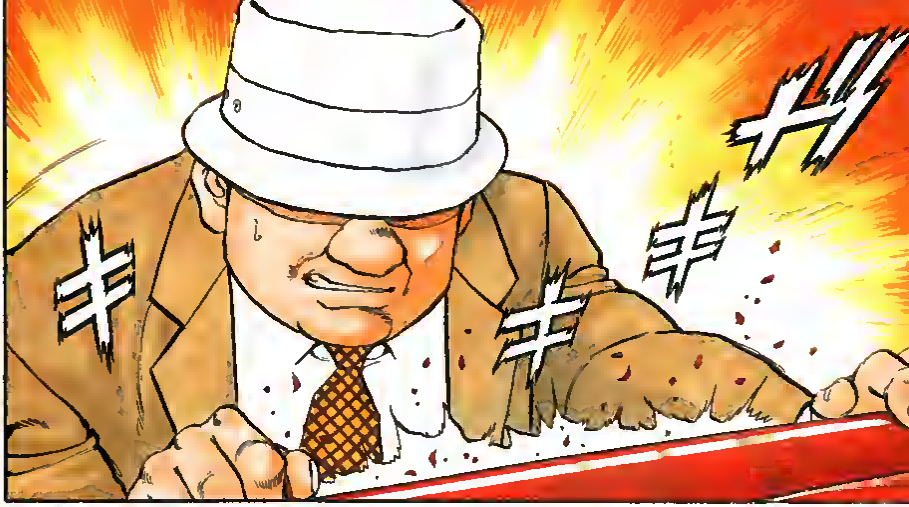
ALL RIGHT!


LET'S PRESS ON UNTIL NIGHTFALL.

BUT HOW TO FIND ONE SINGLE CAR IN A MOUNTAIN OF CARCASSES...?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
MR. TAKEDA! OVER THERE!!

THAT'S A CAMARO! NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!!
IT'S INDEED A CAMARO...
...BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, IT HAS THE WRONG COLOR.



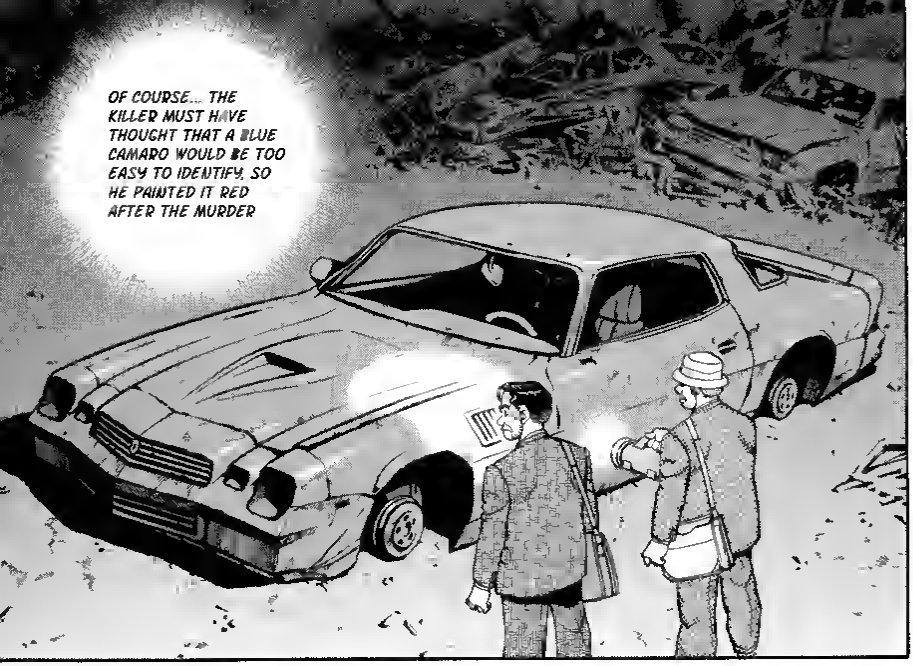


MR. TAKEDA!
!!
THIS IS THE COLOR!!

WE'VE FINALLY FOUND IT!

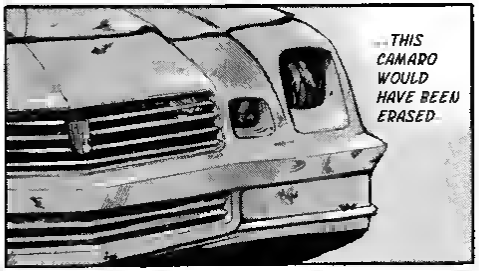
ｹﾞｯ

HEEEY! GET THIS CAR DOWN THERE!
HUH?


OF COURSE... THE KILLER MUST HAVE THOUGHT THAT A BLUE CAMARO WOULD BE TOO EASY TO IDENTIFY, SO HE PAINTED IT RED AFTER THE MURDER

IF IT HAD BEEN SCRAPPED...
ON TOP OF THAT, HE EVEN TRIED TO DESTROY IT-- HOW CUNNING!

...FROM PEOPLE'S MEMORY

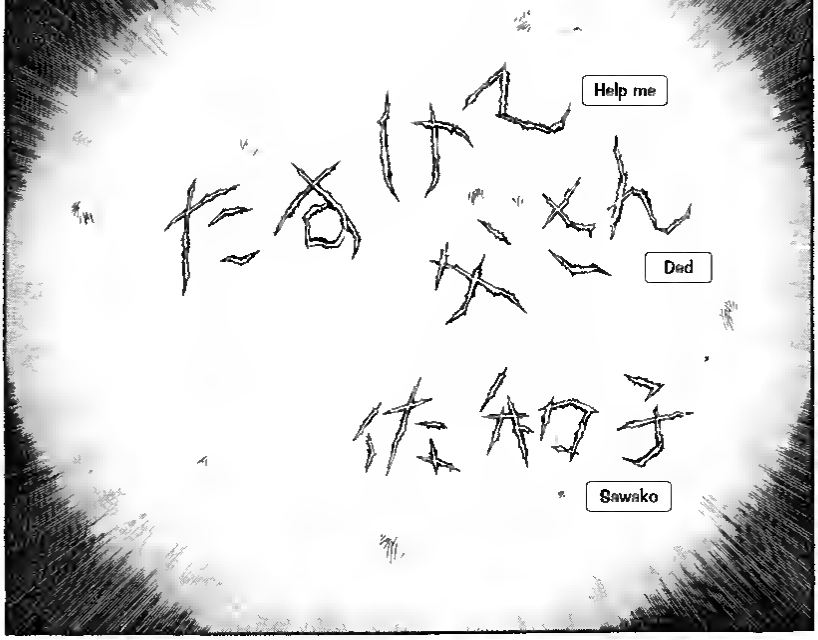

...THIS CAMARO WOULD HAVE BEEN ERASED

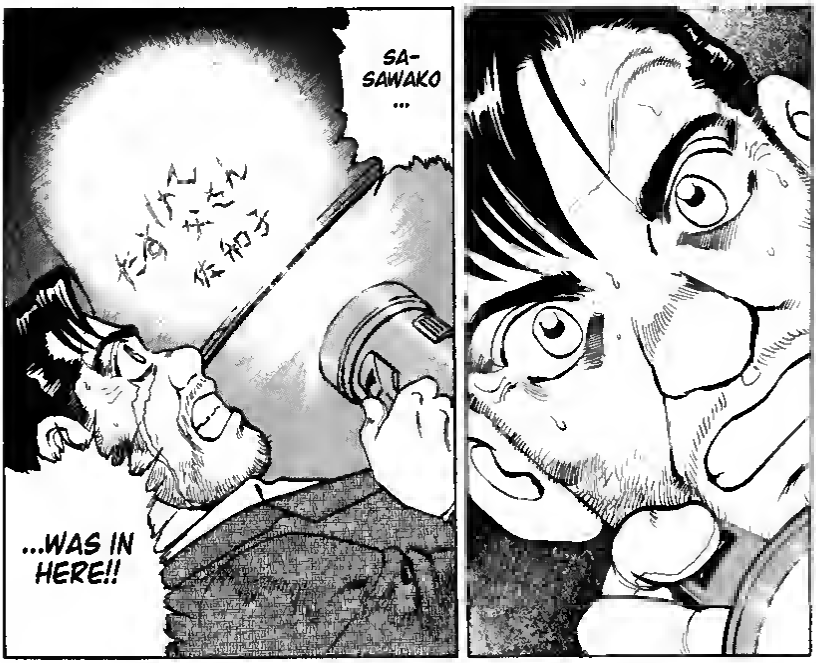
OF COURSE.
I'D LIKE YOU TO WEAR THESE, JUST IN CASE.
THERE'S AN IMPACT MARK OVER HERE
DIFFICULT TO SAY IF IT'S FROM THE DAY OF THE MURDER.

ジャリ
カ!!

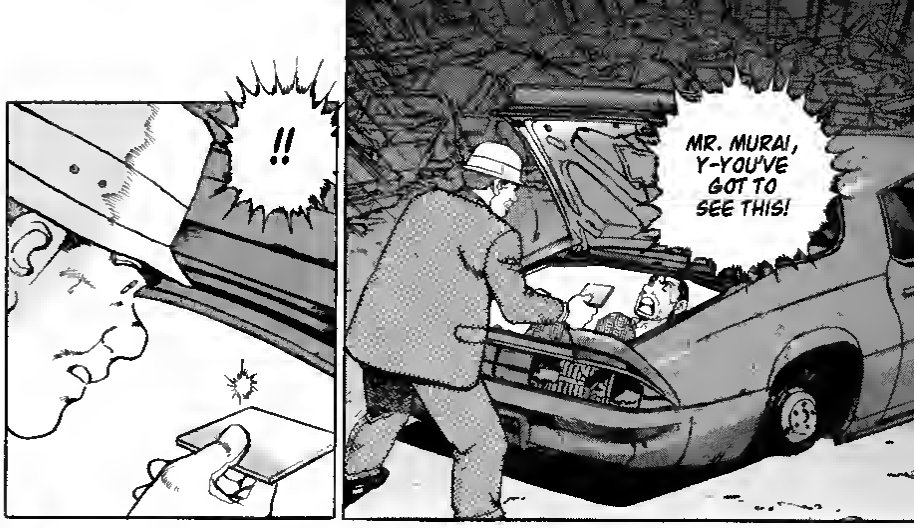
MR. MURAI!

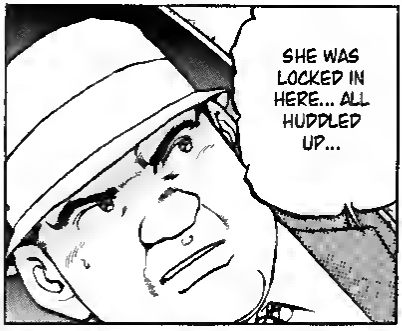
FOUND SOME-THING?!
THE FLASH-LIGHT, PLEASE!!
たすけて
Help me

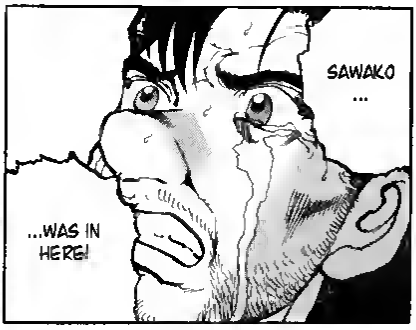

Help me
Dad
Sawako

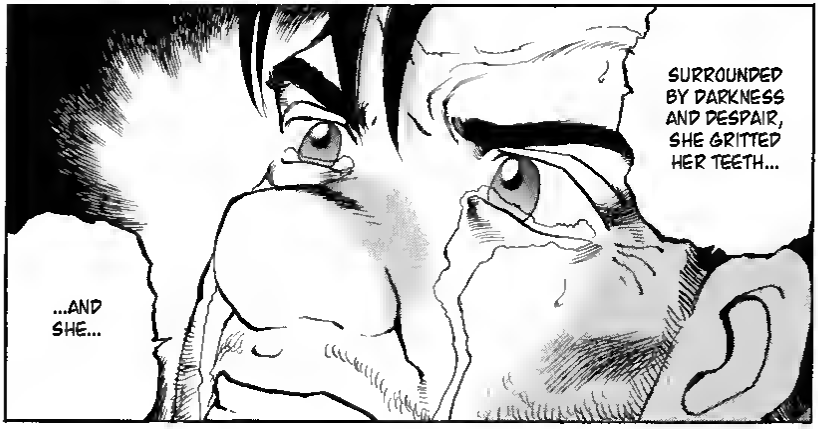

SA-
SAWAKO
...
...WAS IN
HERE!!

?!
Satoh
YUTA SATOH... IT'S HIM!!

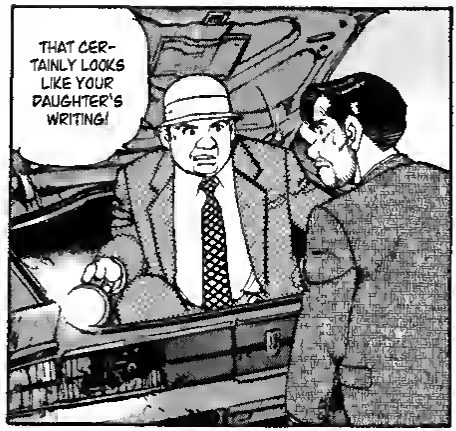

!!
MR. MURAI, Y-YOU'VE GOT TO SEE THIS!

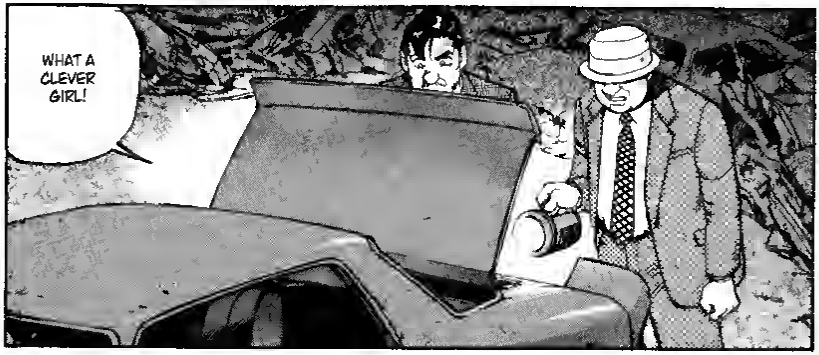

SHE WAS LOCKED IN HERE... ALL HUDDLED UP...


SAWAKO ...
...WAS IN HERE!


SURROUNDED BY DARKNESS AND DESPAIR, SHE GRITTED HER TEETH...
...AND SHE...

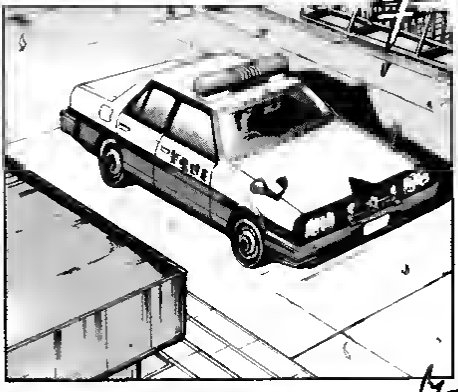
SHE CARVED THE NAME OF THE KILLER...
...ON THE INSIDE CEILING OF THE CAR'S TRUNK!!
佐藤
1063636
1955915
たすけて
父さん
佐和子

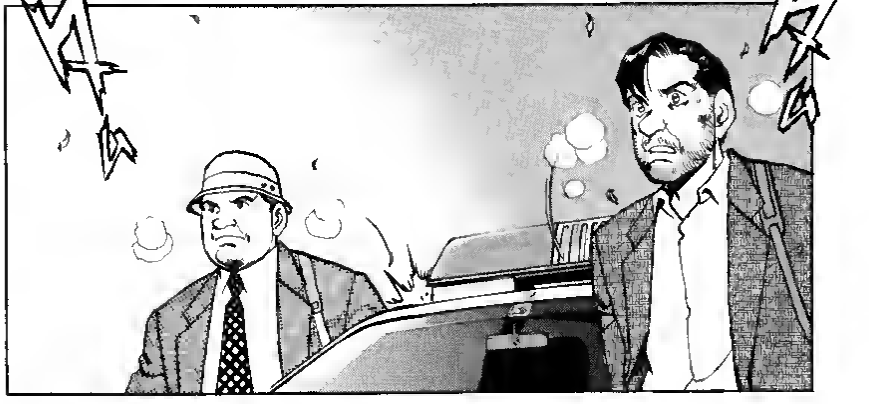

THAT CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE YOUR DAUGHTER'S WRITING!

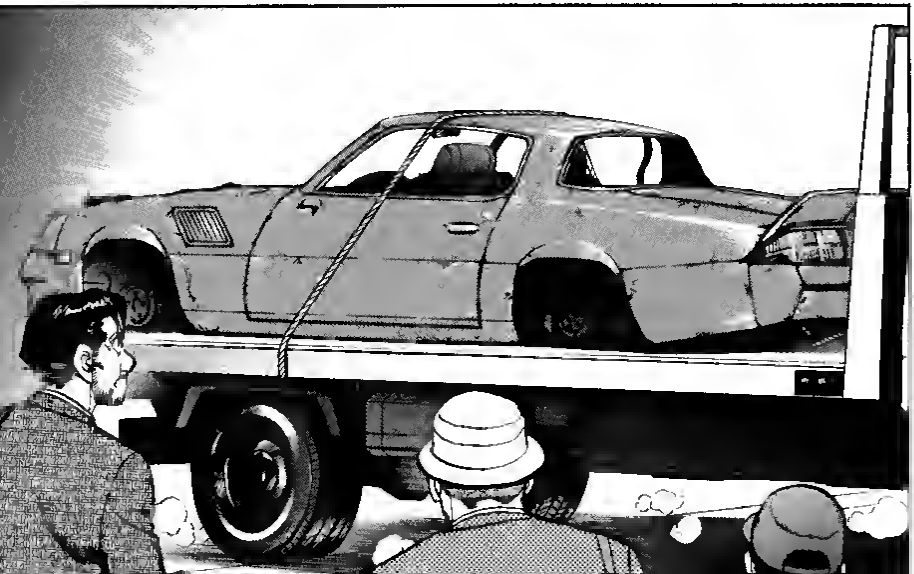

WHAT A CLEVER GIRL!

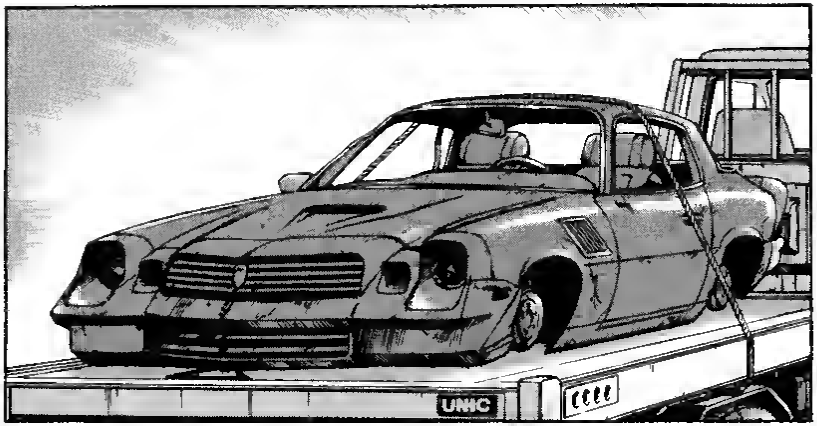
YES!!
MR. TAKEDA, TOGETHER WE WILL AVENGE HER!!

LifE
Fukumoto Nobuyuki×Kawaguchi Kaiji



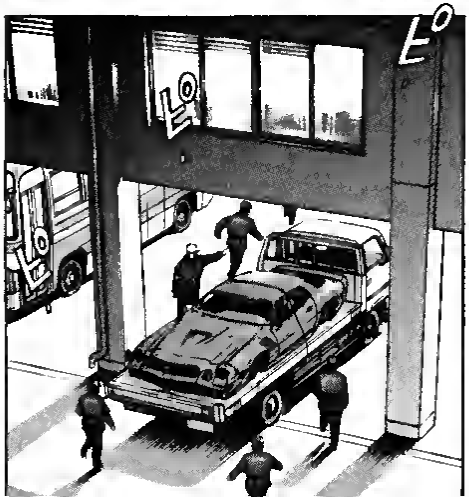


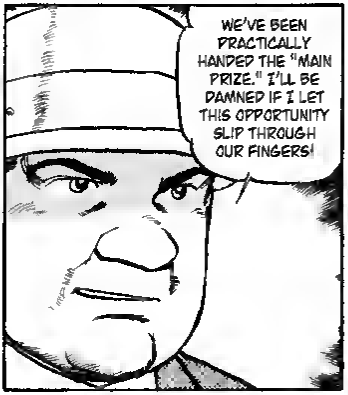



UNIC

YES, SIR!

NO! I'M SURE WE WILL!
I WANT THIS CAR EXAMINED FROM TOP TO BOTTOM! WE MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO FIND SOMETHING...




WE'VE BEEN PRACTICALLY HANDED THE "MAIN PRIZE." I'LL BE DAMNED IF I LET THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP THROUGH OUR FINGERS!

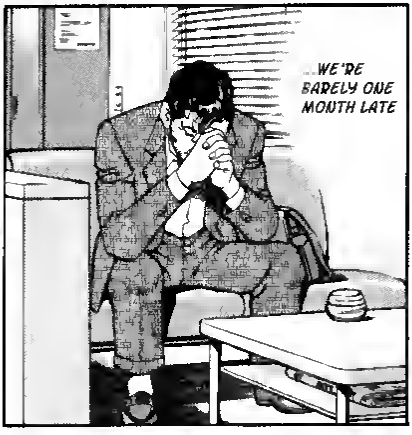
WITH THIS CAMARO, THE POLICE WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION...
NOW WE CAN ACT.
!!
SATOH WON'T GET AWAY FROM US!
THERE'S ONLY ONE CAVEAT...
THE MURDER'S STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS HAS ALREADY RUN OUT!!

...WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING!

ALL OUR EFFORTS
IF IT TURNS OUT SATOH WAS NEVER ABROAD DURING THOSE 15 YEARS

THE 15 YEARS MAY HAVE PASSED, BUT...

THERE'S STILL.. HOPE!!


...WE'RE BARELY ONE MONTH LATE

YOU'RE GOING TO PAY, YUTA SATOH!
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS!

MR TAKEDA...
EVERY-THING'S FINE!
THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS IS STILL IN EFFECT!
ACCORDING TO SATOH'S TRAVEL RECORD, THAT IDIOT SPENT ONE YEAR OVERSEAS, PROBABLY WAITING TO SEE IF HIS CRIME WOULD BE DISCOVERED.
HE WASN'T TRAVELING. HE TOOK UP RESIDENCE THERE!
ARE YOU SURE?!
ABSO-LUTELY!

YOUR AND YOUR DAUGHTER'S HOPE, YOUR PERSISTENCE. THEY HAVE PAID OFF!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
TH-

≫YAAAWN≪
"ALL RIGHT... LET'S TAKE THINGS SLOWLY FROM HERE."
ピア
"THE KILLER DOESN'T KNOW THAT WE'RE CLOSING ON HIM YET."
"WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME LEFT."
"IN OTHER WORDS, THERE'S NO DANGER OF HIM ATTEMPT-ING TO ESCAPE"

WE STILL HAVE TIME TO ACT AFTER WE'RE IN POSSESSION OF ALL THE INFORMATION THE CAR CAN GIVE US.
THEREFORE, I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO REFRAIN FROM ANY PREMATURE ACTIONS NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS FOR YOU.

O-OF COURSE!

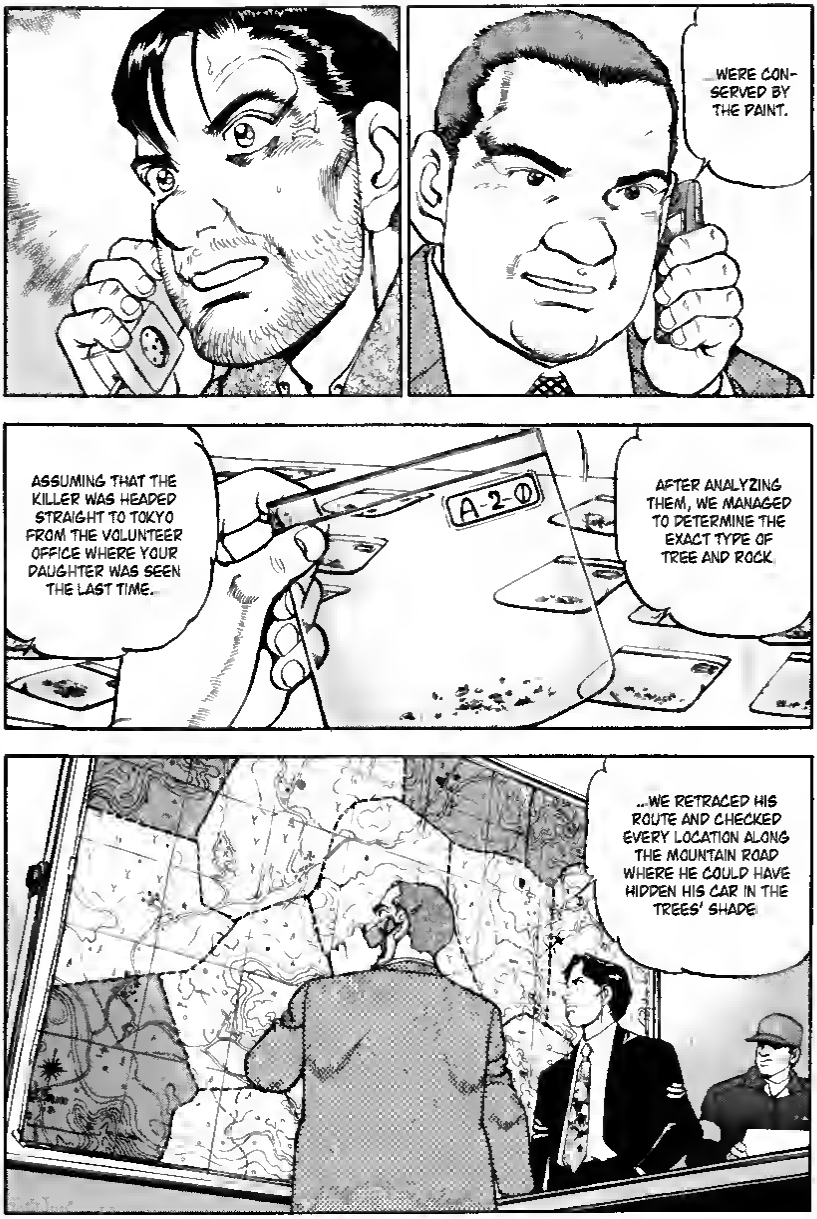
IF SATOH REALIZES WE'RE ONTO HIM, HE'LL LIKELY ATTEMPT TO GET RID OF ALL THE EVIDENCE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

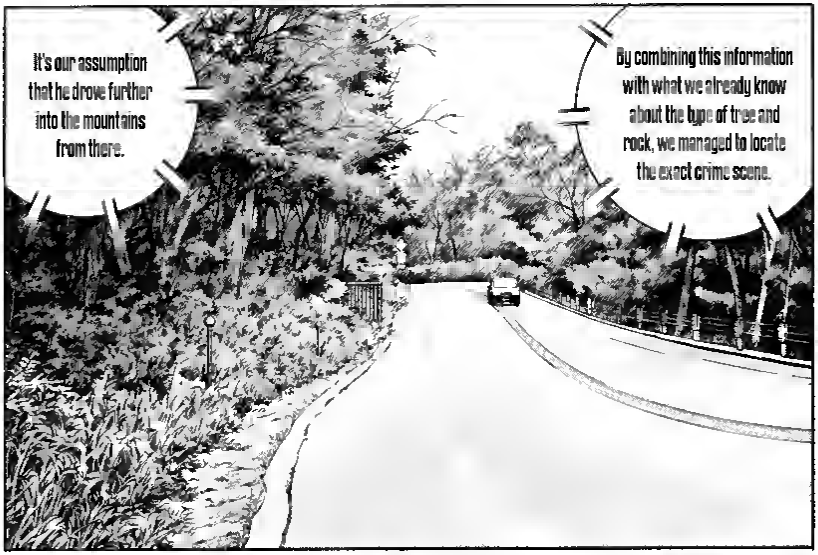
PATIENCE, SAWAKO SOON EVERYTHING WILL BE OVER!

!?

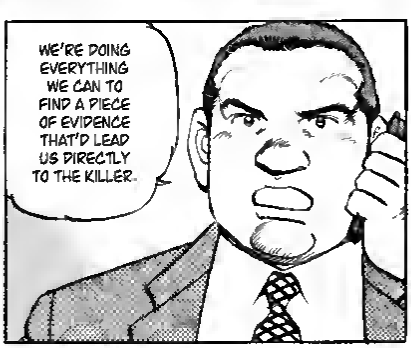
Yes! The dent on the car's rear...
R-REALLY ?!
Normally, this kind of traces should be gone after 15 years...
...have made it possible for us to pinpoint the location where the murder probably took place.
The wood and rock particles that we found on its surface...
...IN THE NAIVE HOPE TO MAKE IT UNRECOGNIZABLE, HE ACTUALLY DID US A FAVOR
HOWEVER, WHEN THE KILLER OVER-PAINTED THE CAR...

THE PAINT HAD COVERED AND SOLIDIFIED THOSE PARTICLES
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
We suppose that while he was driving backward...
After what he did, the killer must've started his car in a panic
... he hit against tree branches and rocks
The tiny particles of wood and rock that remained on the car's surface...

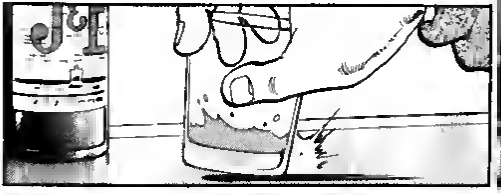

...WERE CONSERVED BY THE PAINT.
ASSUMING THAT THE KILLER WAS HEADED STRAIGHT TO TOKYO FROM THE VOLUNTEER OFFICE WHERE YOUR DAUGHTER WAS SEEN THE LAST TIME...
A-20
AFTER ANALYZING THEM, WE MANAGED TO DETERMINE THE EXACT TYPE OF TREE AND ROCK.
...WE RETRACED HIS ROUTE AND CHECKED EVERY LOCATION ALONG THE MOUNTAIN ROAD WHERE HE COULD HAVE HIDDEN HIS CAR IN THE TREES' SHADE.


It's our assumption that he drove further into the mountains from there.
By combining this information with what we already know about the type of tree and rock, we managed to locate the exact crime scene.

THANK YOU!!


WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO FIND A PIECE OF EVIDENCE THAT'D LEAD US DIRECTLY TO THE KILLER.

I'll bring you the file with all our data in a few days.
...!!



HE'S GOING TO PAY FOR WHAT HE DID!!

HM?
WAIT A SECOND ...
HUH?
COULD THIS BE POSSIBLE ...?
LET ME DO A CHECK!

!!
RRRING
WHAT?!
MURAI.
T-THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!!

DING DONG
ピンポン
武田
ピンポン
武田
[1]
SHUFF
SHUFF
SHUFF
[1] TAKEDA
DING DONG
ピンポン
ピンポン
MR. TAKEDA, DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH!!

OH..

I'VE GOT TO ADMIT THE NEWS 'BOUT HER TOOK ME TOTALLY BY SURPRISE
WHO COULD'VE GUESSED SUCH A TRAGEDY COULD HAPPEN?
Y-YOU'RE MR. TAKEDA, AREN'T YOU?
SAWAKO'S FATHER!

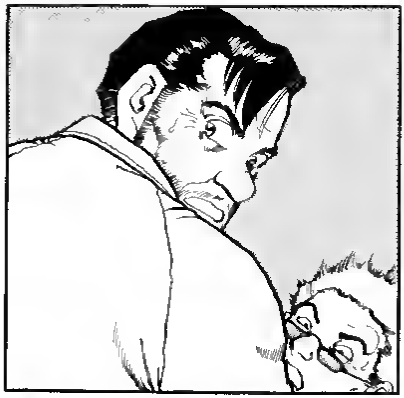
ABOUT THE— YOU KNOW...
WELL..
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY, BUT...
生存
I MEAN, EVEN IF IT'S JUST HER SOUL...
IN A WAY, YOUR DAUGHTER FINALLY CAME HOME.
IT'S A TRAGEDY.
BUT. SOMEHOW IT'S A GOOD THING, TOO.

YOU SON OF A BITCH!

WHY'D YOU KILL HER?!
WHY'D ...
...YOU KILL HER?!

MR. TAKEDA!

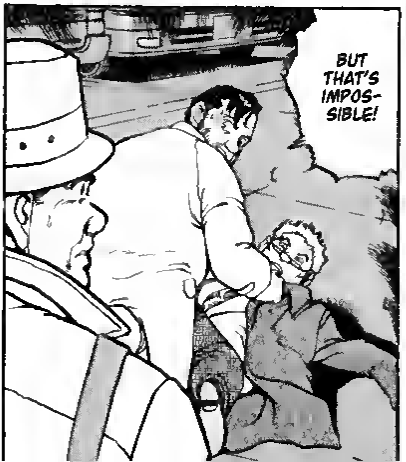
SHUFF!S
SHUFF!S
SHUFF!S



MR. TAKEDA, WE'RE WRONG!
MR. SATOH IS NOT THE MURDERER!

IT'S NOT HIM?

WHAT?


BUT THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

佐藤
Satoh

I'M SORRY.
I OVER-LOOKED IT MYSELF.
HUH?
ON THE DAY OF THE MURDER 15 YEARS AGO...
..MR. SATOH WAS JUST COMING BACK FROM A TRIP IN GUAM.
SO HE COULD GET THERE. IF HE COULD THEN WHAT'S YOUR POINT?!
WELL.. THEORETICALLY, HE COULD STILL HAVE MADE IT THERE IN TIME. SINCE HE HAD ENOUGH TIME TO GO TO NAGANO, WE CONCLUDED THAT HE COULD VERY WELL HAVE COMMITTED THE MURDER.

WHAT?
IF HE'D LANDED IN NARITA, THAT IS.
...ARRIVED IN FUKUOKA AT NOON!
ON THAT DAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, MR. SATOH ..
IN OTHER WORDS, MR. SATOH IS INNOCENT.
HE HAS A PERFECT ALIBI!
NO MATTER HOW SMOOTH HIS TRANSIT WAS, THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD'VE MADE IT TO LAKE OSAWA IN NAGANO WITH ALL THE RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC
IF HE LANDED IN FUKUOKA AT NOON...

2F
居酒屋
つぼ六
各種パーティ予約受付中
AMUSEMENT

IT'S OK. FORGET IT.
YOU SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME SUDDENLY ATTACKING ME LIKE THAT..

I'M DEEPLY SORRY!
PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES!

BUT. NOW THAT I'VE HEARD THE STORY I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FELT.

I GUESS IT'S NORMAL THAT YOU THOUGHT I WAS THE MURDERER
COME TO THINK OF IT...
A LOT OF PEOPLE? WHO?
I DID LEND THE CAMARO TO A LOT OF PEOPLE
GUYS I MET IN DISCOS OR COFFEE SHOPS
DUNNO...
SO... SEPTEMBER 16TH, WAS IT?

BUT... MR. SATOH...
I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER WHO I LENT THE CAMARO TO AT THE TIME.

I'M NOT QUITE SURE...
I THINK I SOLD IT TO HIM...

IT WAS YOUR CAMARO THAT WAS USED DURING THE CRIME.
THE MAN YOU LENT IT TO, DID HE OR DID HE NOT RETURN IT?

WHY IS IT NOT THIS SATOH?
SAWAKO, WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
たすけて
父さん
佐和子

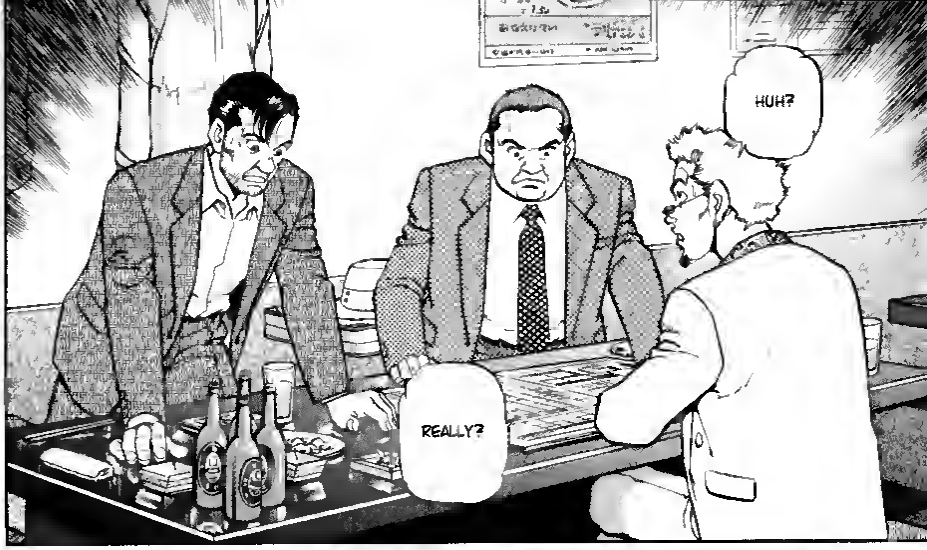
LOOK, WE WERE NEVER REALLY CLOSE FRIENDS.
IT COULD BE SABURO, JUN'ICHI OR MAYBE SATOSHI..
THEY WERE JUST GUYS I MET AT THE COFFEE SHOP.
WHERE CAN WE FIND THEM NOW?!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THEY LIVE NOW. IT'S BEEN 15 YEARS, AFTER ALL.

PLEASE...
EVEN THE MOST INSIGNIFICANT DETAILS WOULD HELP.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU CAN TELL US...
!
本日のおすすめ メニュー
PLEASE TRY TO REMEMBER WHO THESE MEN WERE!
I BEG OF YOU!
O-OK, BUT PLEASE LIFT YOUR HEAD

PRETTY SURE HE WAS GOING TO HIRAYAMA JUNIOR HIGH IN THE NEXT TOWN.
JUN'ICHI WAS AN ONLY CHILD.
HMM..
OK, WELL..
HE..
AND SATOSHI..
SABURO CAME FROM HOKKAIDO IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY.
AT THE TIME HE WAS VERY HAPPY SINCE A COMPANY JUST OFFERED HIM A JOB.
A JOB?
!!
OH, YES! I REMEMBER NOW!
HE WAS THE ONLY ONE ATTENDING A GOOD UNIVERSITY. WASEDA OR MEIHO, DON'T REMEMBER WHICH..

OH! IT'S GOT TO BE IN THE PAPER
COME ON...
HMM, WHAT WAS THE COMPANY'S NAME AGAIN? IT WAS A MAJOR ONE.
IT WAS A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.
CONSTRUCTION... CONSTRUCTION...
MISS! YOU GOT TODAY'S PAPER?
THIS ONE!

[1] TOWA CONST
東和建[1] 198
HE WAS OVER-JOYED TO BE HIRED BY THIS COMPANY.
WHAT ...?!
THAT'S ...
...MY COMPANY!


HUH?
REALLY?

NO .. I DON'T THINK SO
AND THIS MAN'S FAMILY NAME WAS SATOH, TOO?

BUT IF HIS FAMILY NAME IS NOT SATOH...
IF HE WORKS FOR MY COMPANY, ALL I NEED TO DO IS CHECK THE EMPLOYEE'S LIST TO FIND THIS SATOSHI.
MY MEMORY MIGHT BE BAD, BUT I WOULD'VE REMEMBERED IF A GUY'D HAD THE SAME FAMILY NAME AS ME
!!

WELL, SATOSHI WAS JUST SATOSHI...
HOW DID YOU CALL HIM?
AT THE COFFEE SHOP..
!!
WAIT..
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT..
SATO-CHAN..
I WAS THE ONLY ONE CALLING HIM SATOSHI. EVERY-BODY ELSE CALLED HIM SATO-CHAN*.

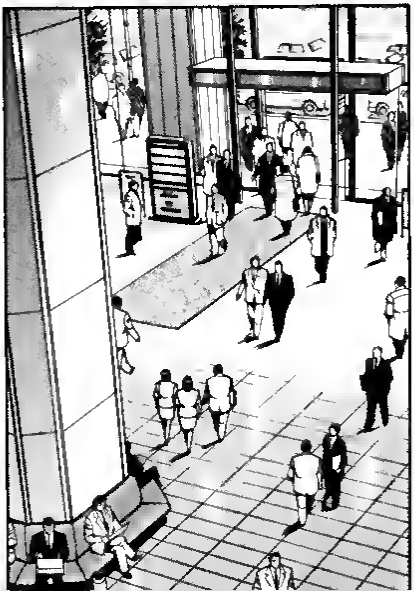
* CHAN. AN INFORMAL NAME SUFFIX THAT INDICATES FAMILIARITY, USUALLY USED WITH FIRST NAMES.

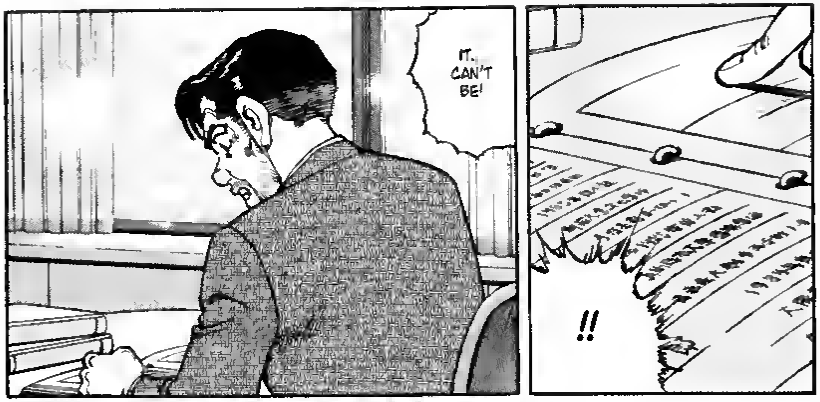
SATOH!
SATOSHI.. SATO-CHAN.
SATO ..
...AND MISTAKENLY THOUGHT HIS REAL NAME WAS SATOH.
IF EVERYBODY CALLED HIM SATO-CHAN AT THE COFFEE SHOP, YOUR DAUGHTER COULD HAVE HEARD HIS NICKNAME ..

A MISTAKE?!
佐藤
Satoh
106

IT'S POSSIBLE, MR. TAKEDA!

[1] TOWA CONSTRUCTION



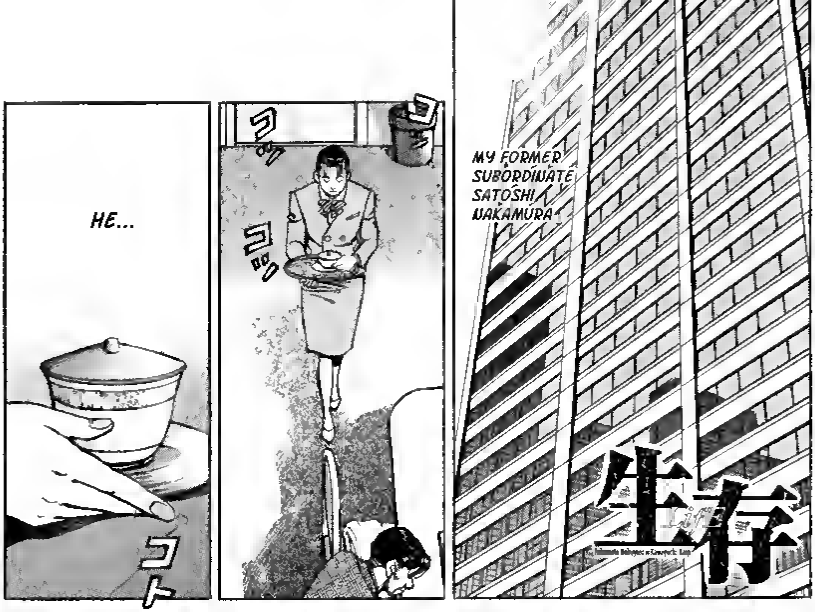


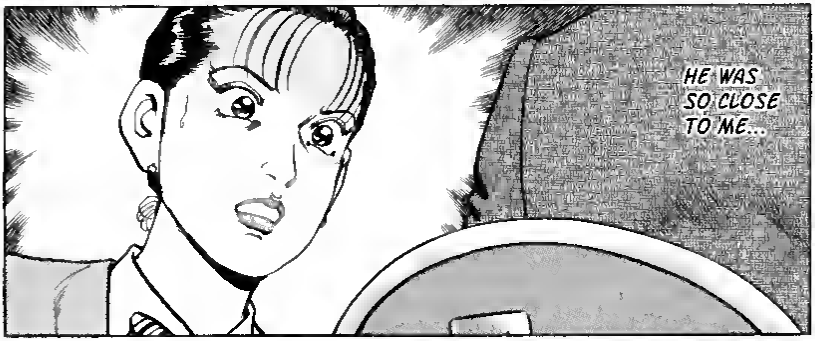
NAKAMURA Satoshi

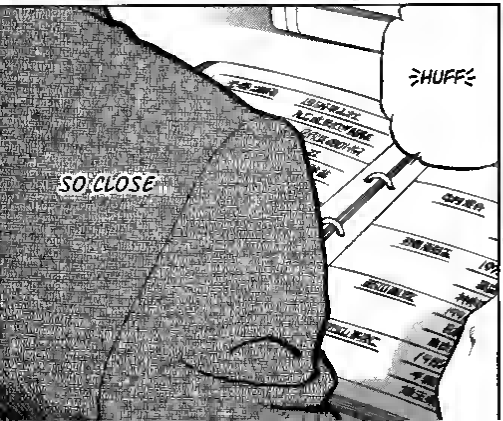
Joined the company in 1985

Waseda University
Department of Political Scienc
and Economics.

THE NAKAMURA... WHO WAS MY HEAD OF STAFF UNTIL THE MOMENT I RETIRED?!


MY FORMER SUBORDINATE SATOSHI NAKAMURA
生存
HE...

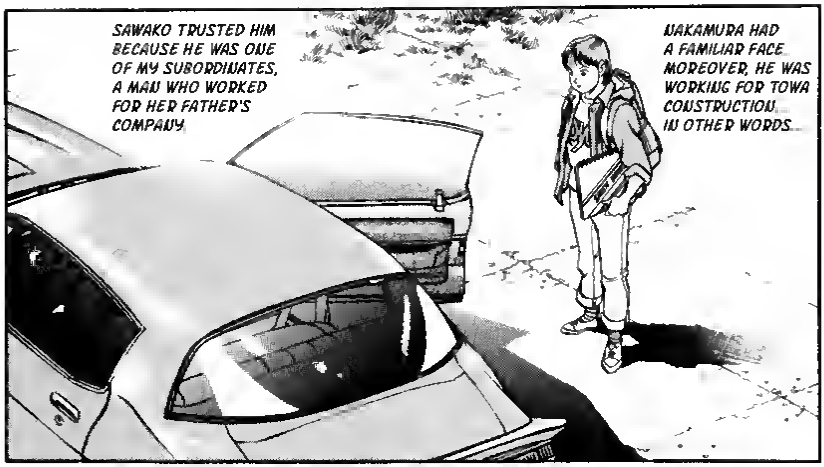

HE WAS SO CLOSE TO ME...

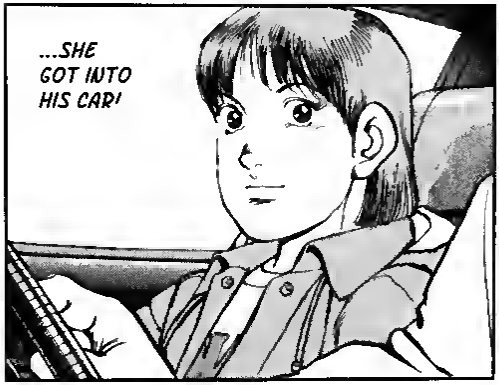

SO CLOSE...
≥HUFF≤

≥HUFF≤
≥HUFF≤

HE WAS SO CLOSE TO ME!

THIS FINALLY ANSWERS THE ONE QUESTION THAT HAS BEEN BUGGING ME...
OF COURSE...
FOR A WHILE I COULDN'T SHAKE OFF THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING WAS STRANGE.
EVEN IF SHE KNEW THE MAN'S FACE, HE WOULD ONLY HAVE BEEN SOMEONE SHE BRIEFLY MET AT A CAFÉ.
BUT EVERYTHING SEEMS CLEAR NOW!
I CAN'T IMAGINE SAWAKO WOULD GET INTO THE CAR OF A MAN SHE HARDLY KNEW.


SAWAKO TRUSTED HIM BECAUSE HE WAS ONE OF MY SUBORDINATES, A MAN WHO WORKED FOR HER FATHER'S COMPANY.
WAKAMURA HAD A FAMILIAR FACE. MOREOVER, HE WAS WORKING FOR TOWA CONSTRUCTION. IN OTHER WORDS...


...SHE GOT INTO HIS CAR!

THAT'S THE REASON

MY GOD!
SAWAKO!
I'M SO SORRY!
WHAT A... NIGHTMARE!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
東和建
HUFF
DID YOU FIND IT?

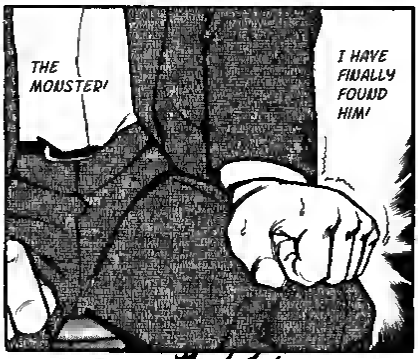
I WROTE DOWN EVERY-THING IN HERE.
SATOSHI NAKAMURA, BORN IN 1961...
DOMICILED IN OKAYAMA PREFEC-TURE.

Nagano Prefecture,
N City Police Headquarters

!
MURAI...
SHUFF
SHUFF
SHUFF
...ON NAKAMURA'S OVERSEAS TRAVEL RECORD DURING THE LAST 15 YEARS!
EVERYTHING DEPENDS...
OR NOT?!
HAS THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS EXPIRED?

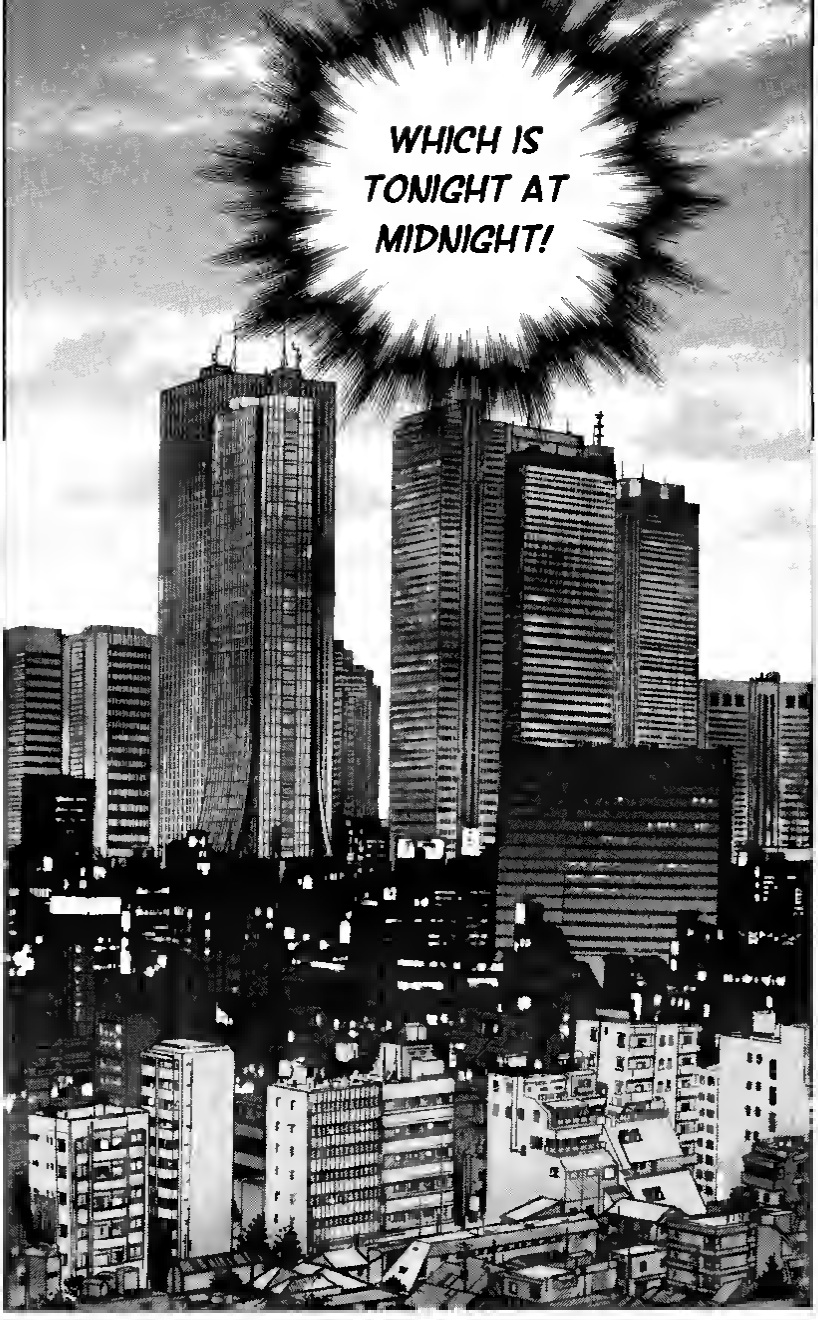
PLEASE! LET US HAVE MORE TIME!
HMM..
YES .. YES...

WHAT?!


THE MONSTER!
I HAVE FINALLY FOUND HIM!

Every time we came to the same result: the statute of limitations expires on December 1st.
通話中

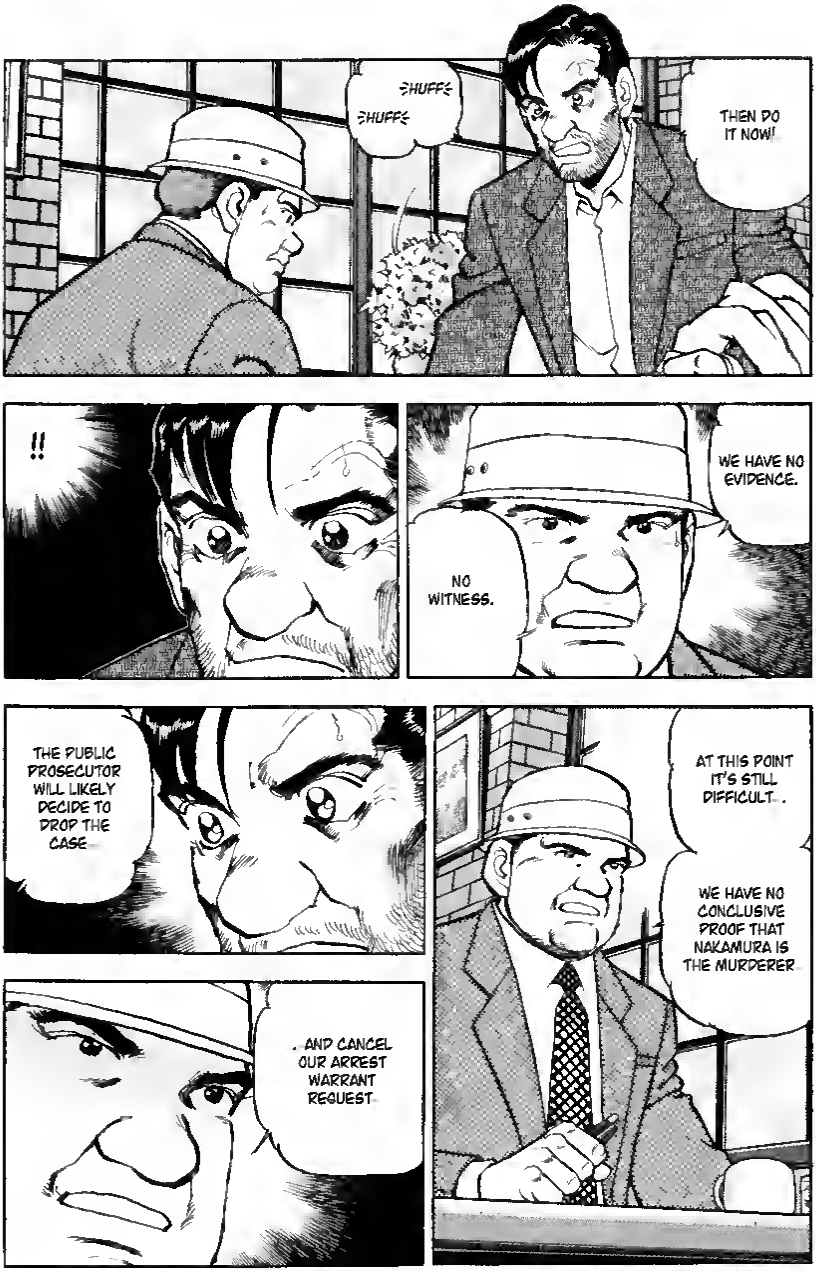
ARE YOU SURE?
Yes... We have run the calculations five times


WHICH IS TONIGHT AT MIDNIGHT!

Everything's over at midnight!
...6 P.M. NOW!
IT'S

...SIX HOURS LEFT!
ONLY...

MR. TAKEDA, PLEASE CALM DOWN!
:HUFF:
:HUFF:
..FILED THE CRIMINAL PAPERS WITH THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR YET!
WE HAVEN'T..
LET'S GO!
LET'S GO AND ARREST NAKAMURA!
..SO WE HAVEN'T SUBMITTED A REQUEST FOR AN ARREST WARRANT TO THE COURT YET!
WITHOUT A WARRANT...
WE ONLY BEGAN TO SUSPECT NAKAMURA TO BE THE MURDERER THIS MORNING AT TEN.
CRIMINAL PAPERS?

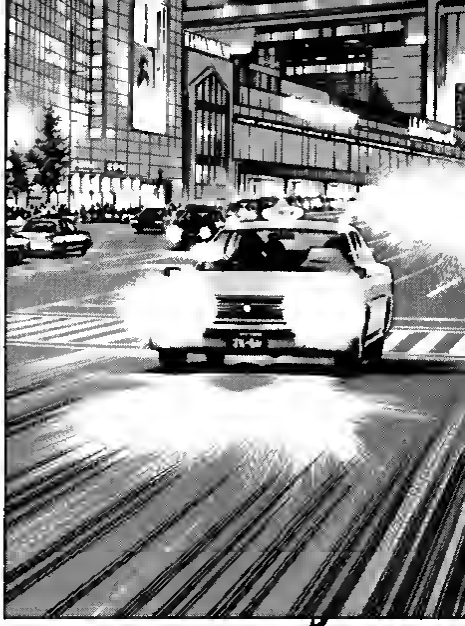

SHUFF
SHUFF
THEN DO IT NOW!
!!
WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE.
NO WITNESS.
THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR WILL LIKELY DECIDE TO DROP THE CASE.
AT THIS POINT IT'S STILL DIFFICULT.
WE HAVE NO CONCLUSIVE PROOF THAT NAKAMURA IS THE MURDERER.
. AND CANCEL OUR ARREST WARRANT REQUEST.

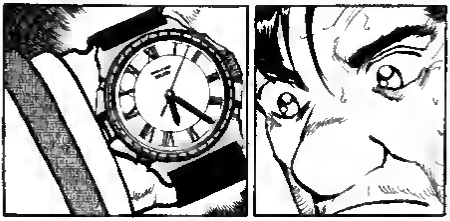
WHAT ABOUT THE MESSAGE IN THE CAR? SHE WROTE HIS NAME!
A-AND..
B-BUT..
THAT'S RIGHT! BUT...
IF NAKAMURA'S ARM HAS SCARS SIMILAR TO THE ONES SHOWN IN SAWAKO'S DRAWING, THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO PROVE THAT HE'S THE MURDERER!
YES, THE WOUNDS!
THE TWO 7-DIGIT NUMBERS IN THE MESSAGE...
BUT THERE'S STILL ONE UNEXPLAINED DETAIL LEFT.
THE SCARS!
THAT'S CERTAINLY THE KEY TO THE CASE.

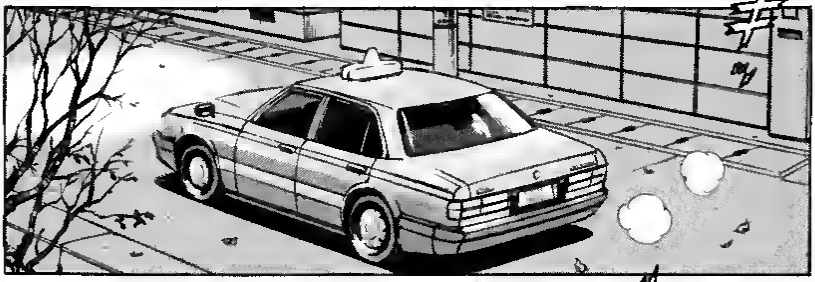
WHAT ARE THEY?
I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHAT THOSE NUMBERS MEAN.
IN ANY CASE, IF HE HAS THREE SCARS ON HIS FOREARM...
...I CAN CONVINCE THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR TO GRANT US THE ARREST WARRANT.
COULD THEY BE PHONE NUMBERS?
THE SIX HOURS WE HAVE LEFT MIGHT NOT SEEM MUCH. STILL...
NOW, PLEASE CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY, MR. TAKEDA.

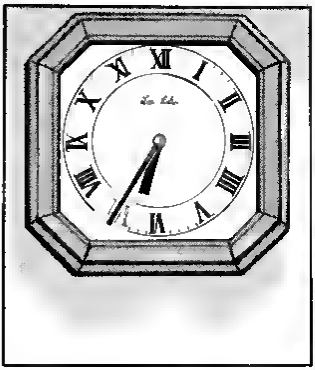
IF WE ACT HASTILY...
...WE'LL LOSE THE CRIMINAL WE'VE CHASED DOWN!
THEY'RE A GIFT FROM GOD!
THESE ARE THE SIX HOURS THAT YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER HAVE WON WITH YOUR TENACITY...
FOR NOW...
...THERE ARE TWO WAYS.

SHUFF
SHUFF



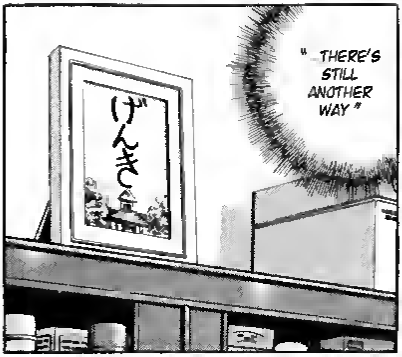


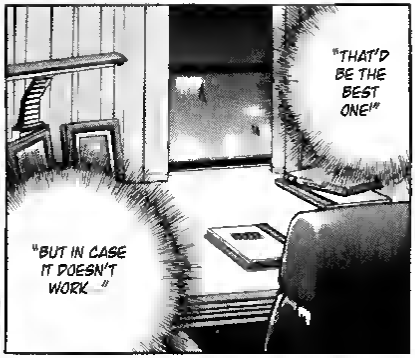


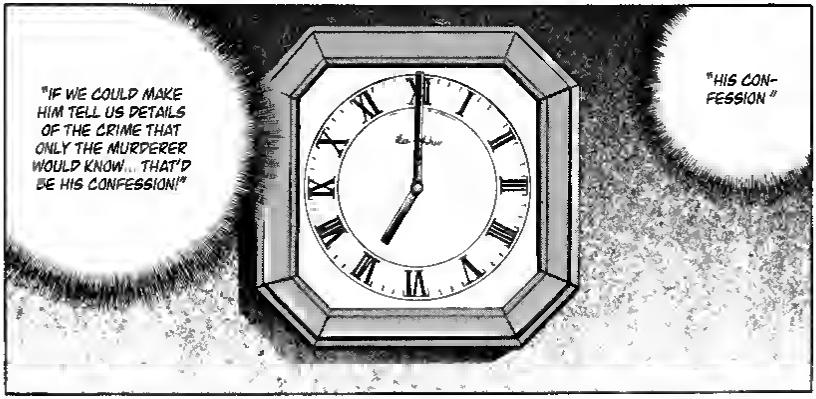


SHUFF
SHUFF

"THE FIRST ONE IS TO CONFIRM HE HAS THOSE SCARS AND PRESENT THIS EVIDENCE TO THE PROSECUTOR."
"WHAT TWO WAYS?"

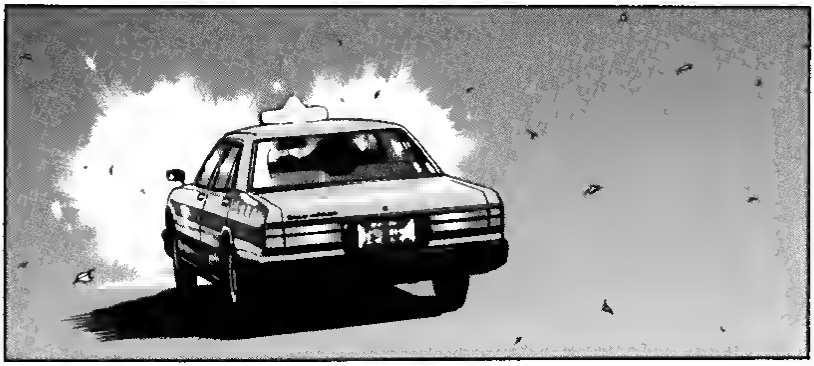

げんき
"...THERE'S STILL ANOTHER WAY."


"THAT'D BE THE BEST ONE!"
"BUT IN CASE IT DOESN'T WORK..."


"IF WE COULD MAKE HIM TELL US DETAILS OF THE CRIME THAT ONLY THE MURDERER WOULD KNOW... THAT'D BE HIS CONFESSION!"
"HIS CONFESSION."

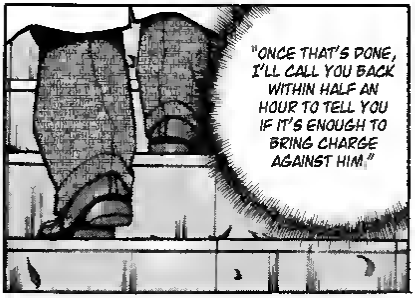
"...IT HAS TO BE DONE BEFORE..."
"BUT WHICHEVER WAY WE CHOOSE..."

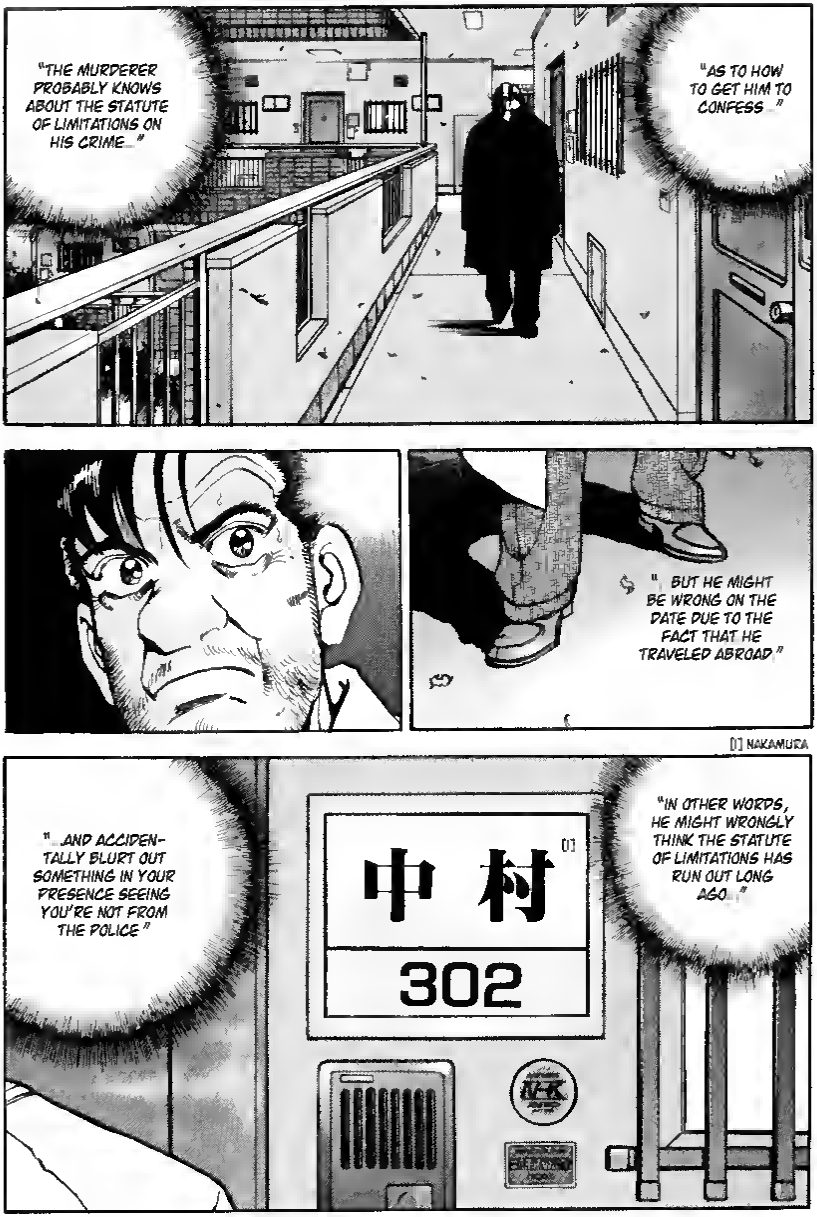
"...TONIGHT'S..."
"...MIDNIGHT!"



"... CALL ME ON MY CELL PHONE."

"WHEN YOU HAVE CONFIRMED THAT HE HAS THOSE SCARS..."

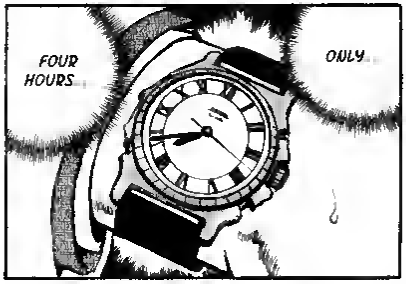

"ONCE THAT'S DONE, I'LL CALL YOU BACK WITHIN HALF AN HOUR TO TELL YOU IF IT'S ENOUGH TO BRING CHARGE AGAINST HIM."

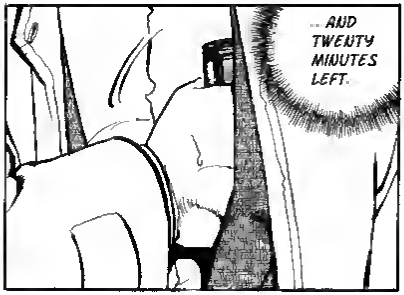

"THE MURDERER PROBABLY KNOWS ABOUT THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON HIS CRIME..."
"AS TO HOW TO GET HIM TO CONFESS..."
"...BUT HE MIGHT BE WRONG ON THE DATE DUE TO THE FACT THAT HE TRAVELED ABROAD."
[1] NAKAMURA
"...AND ACCIDENTALLY BLURT OUT SOMETHING IN YOUR PRESENCE SEEING YOU'RE NOT FROM THE POLICE"
中村[1]
302
"IN OTHER WORDS, HE MIGHT WRONGLY THINK THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS HAS RUN OUT LONG AGO..."

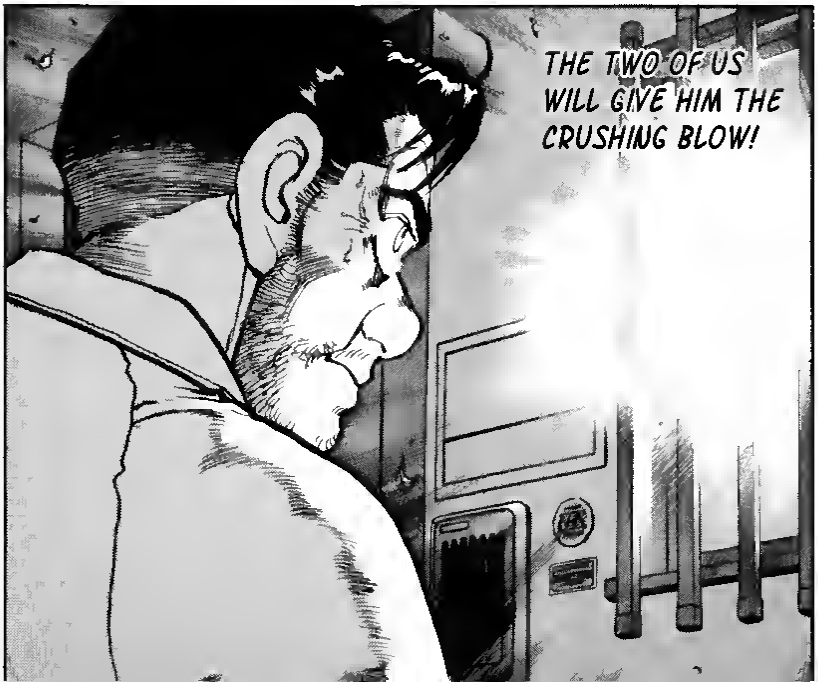
MIC
VOS
MIC
"DETAILS THAT ONLY THE MURDERER WOULD KNOW..."
"HOWEVER..."
"...IF HE KNOWS THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS IS GOING TO EXPIRE BY THE END OF TODAY..."
"...IT'LL BE ENOUGH TO ACCUSE HIM OF MURDER"
"IF YOU MANAGE TO PULL THEM OUT OF HIM..."
"...YOU'LL NEVER GET HIS CONFESSION."

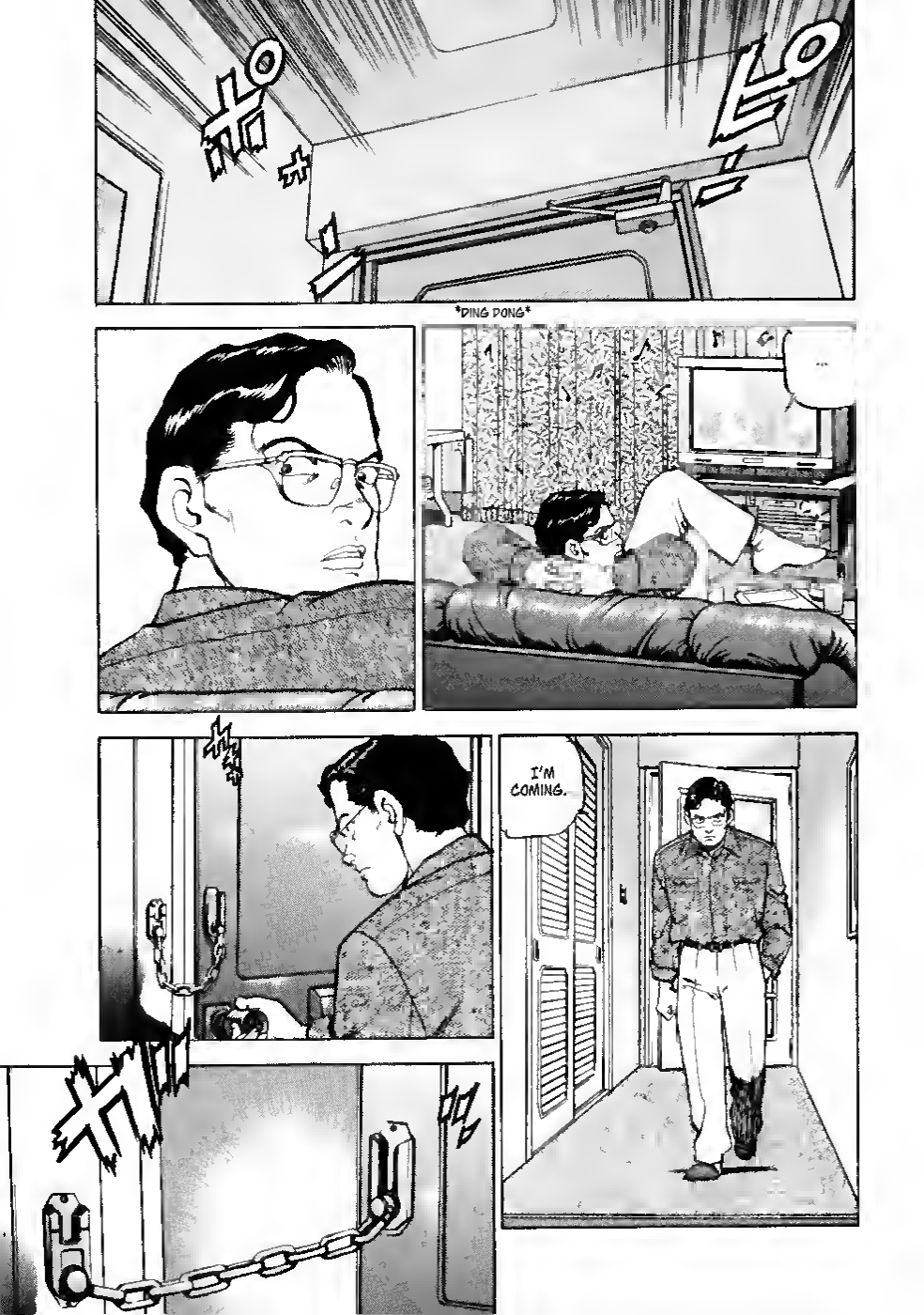
I HAVE FINALLY REACHED THIS POINT!
SAWAKO...

IT'S TIME TO FACE HIM!


FOUR HOURS...
ONLY...


...AND TWENTY MINUTES LEFT.


THE TWO OF US WILL GIVE HIM THE CRUSHING BLOW!

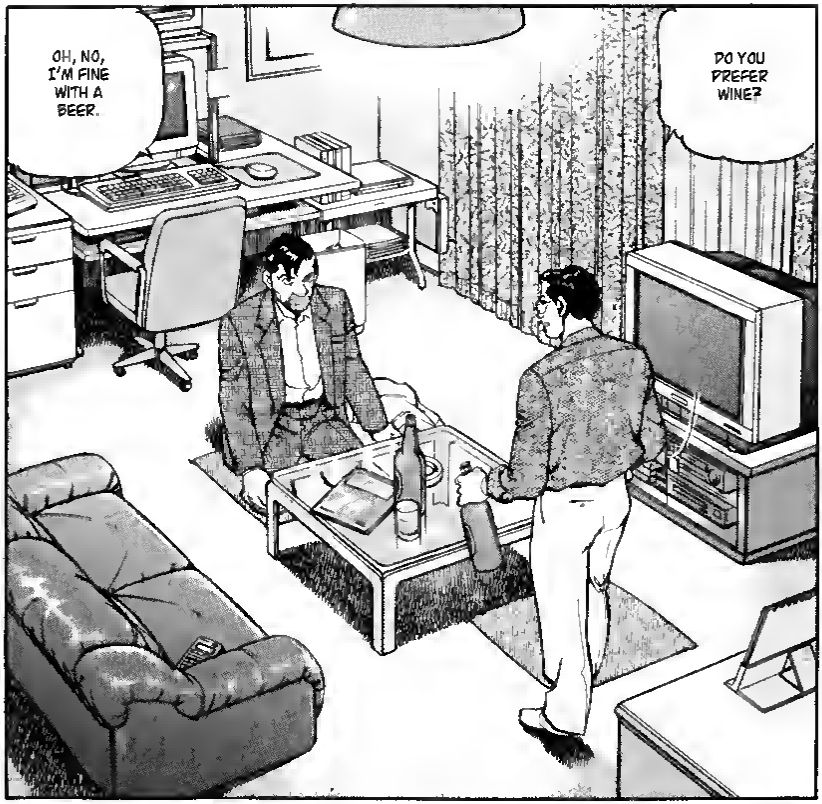

DING DONG
...
I'M COMING.

生存 Life

Fukumoto Nobuyuki ✻ Kawaguchi Kaiji

HUH?
MAY I COME IN?
MR TAKEDA..?
H-HELLO..
OH..
PLEASE..
OF COURSE

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE THE MESS.


OH, NO, I'M FINE WITH A BEER.
DO YOU PREFER WINE?

WHY, THANK YOU!

I BROUGHT YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING. I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.

I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE ANY TIME
!!
THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS TAKES EFFECT ON DECEMBER 1ST AT MIDNIGHT.
THE CALENDAR...!
I'VE GOT FOUR HOURS LEFT!
22
23
24
29
30
11
Noven
Monday
2
9
NO. I WAS JUST IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
OH...
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOUR VISIT.. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

"THE FIRST ONE IS TO CONFIRM HE HAS THE SCARS!"
"THERE ARE TWO WAYS"
"THE OTHER ONE..."
"...IS TO GET HIM TO REVEAL DETAILS ONLY THE MURDERER WOULD KNOW AND DRAW A CONFESSION FROM HIM!"

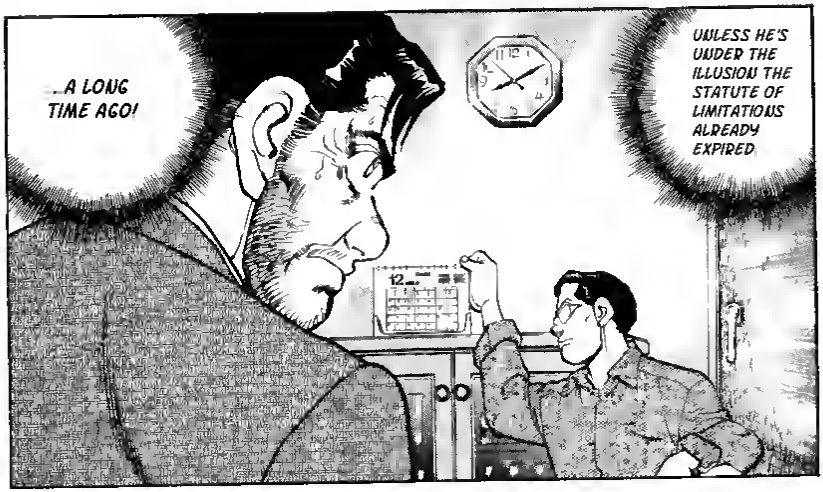
HERE YOU ARE
OH, THANKS
DID MY RESIGNATION CAUSE YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE?
HUH?
SO FAR I HAVEN'T BEEN DEMOTED
I SEE... SORRY ABOUT THAT.
HOW THINGS MIGHT CHANGE IN THE FUTURE
THOUGH I DON'T KNOW...

YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME SINCE I BELONGED TO YOUR STAFF, SO YOU CAME TO SEE HOW I'M DOING .
UH..
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE HERE?
HUH?
YES?
BY THE WAY...
YEAH..
SOME-THING LIKE THAT..
HUH..?
WHEN ARE YOU TAKING YOUR NEW YEAR VACATION?

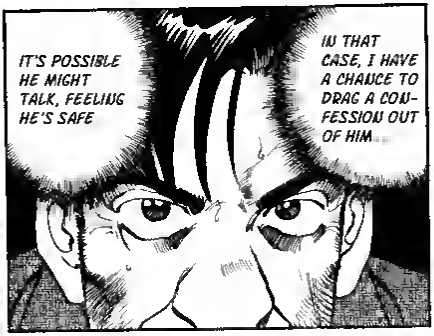
I GUESS I'LL TRY TO WRAP UP WORK ON THE 28TH OR 29TH...
12 December
Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
1
NEW YEAR VACATION...
BEING SINGLE.

...NO MARK!
December
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
1
2
THERE'S...

YOU'D THINK HE WOULD AT LEAST MARK THE DAY ON WHICH THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON HIS CRIME RUNS OUT
SO WHY ...?!
...AND TAKE A FEW DAYS OFF STARTING FROM THE 30TH.


...A LONG TIME AGO!
UNLESS HE'S UNDER THE ILLUSION THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ALREADY EXPIRED

BUT BEFORE WE REACH THAT POINT...


IT'S POSSIBLE HE MIGHT TALK, FEELING HE'S SAFE
IN THAT CASE, I HAVE A CHANCE TO DRAG A CONFESSION OUT OF HIM...

YOU'RE NOT ACTING LIKE YOURSELF TONIGHT, MR. TAKEDA.

NO, NOTHING..
IS SOMETHING WRONG?

THAT ARM
THREE...
IF HE HAS SCARS ON IT...
!!
...SCARS!

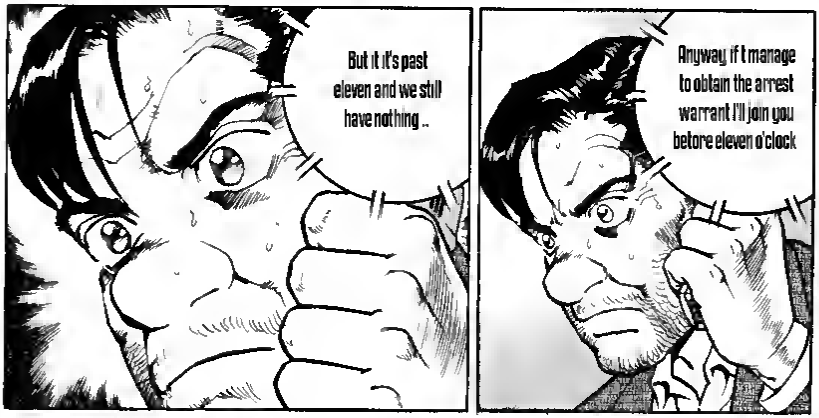
WHA
...?!

MR. TAKEDA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
COULD I USE YOUR BATH-ROOM?
COULD..
WHAT?!

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
12月 火曜日
1

I SAW IT!
How'd it go?
12月
1
MR. MURAI?
Only one?!
YES. IT'S A VERY OLD SCAR...
HE DEFINITELY HAS ONE!
THE SCARS THAT SAWAKO DREW..
MR. MURAI ...?!
...
WE'VE GOT HIM, RIGHT?!

BUT I'M AFRAID IT MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH...
I'LL DO EVERY-THING POSSIBLE TO PUSH THE CASE THROUGH.
I'LL TRY MY BEST...

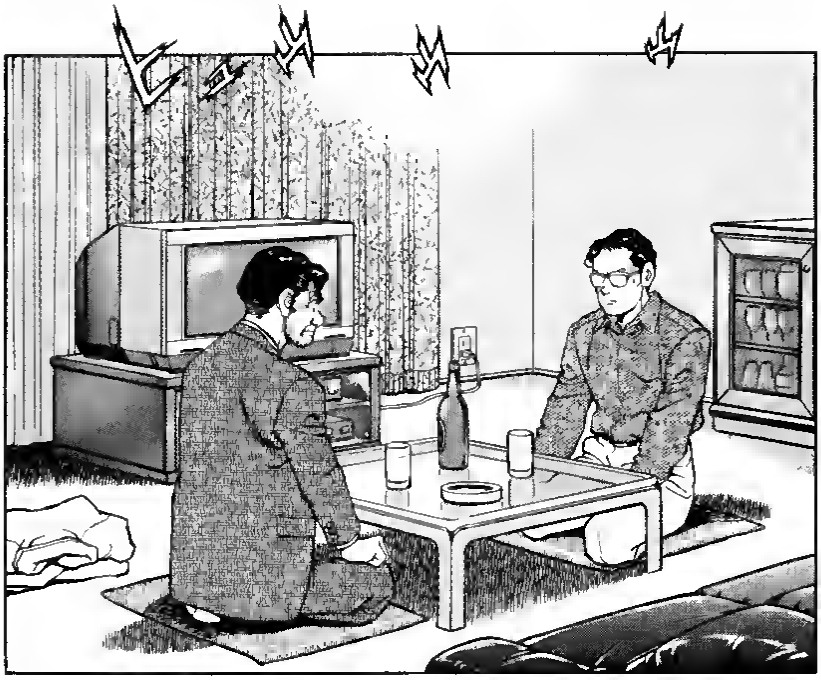

But it it's past eleven and we still have nothing ..
Anyway if t manage to obtain the arrest warrant I'll join you before eleven o'clock

HUFF
HUFF
HE DID IT!
NAKAMURA IS THE MURDERER...!
WITH JUST ONE SCAR, HE COULD ARGUE THAT IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE WHO HAD THE SAME NAME AND THAT THE SCAR IS NOTHING BUT A COINCIDENCE...
...TO GET HIM TO SPEAK
BUT IT'LL BE TOUGH TO DISCONCERT HIM ENOUGH...

THERE'S ONLY THE TWO OF US TO AVENGE YOU!
SAWAKO... WE CAN'T RELY ON THE POLICE!

THERE'S NO OTHER WAY!
WE HAVE TO GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER AND MAKE HIM CONFESS.

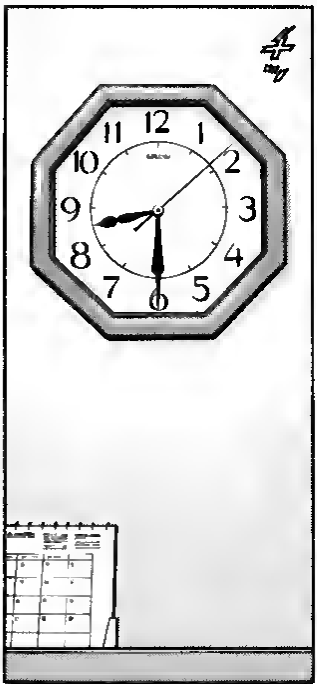
ARE YOU FEELING SICK?
GO TAKE A SEAT.
TAKE A SEAT AT THE TABLE!
EXCUSE ME?



DO YOU KNOW A SAWAKO . TAKEDA?
WHAT?
HUH?
HOW...? WHY DOES THIS MAN...?!
UH... ER...
IMPOSSIBLE!
TAKEDA HE SAID

生存
Tokumoto Kohryuki ■ Kawaguchi Kaiji

SAWAKO TAKEDA WAS MY DAUGHTER.
THAT'S RIGHT.


4 HRS

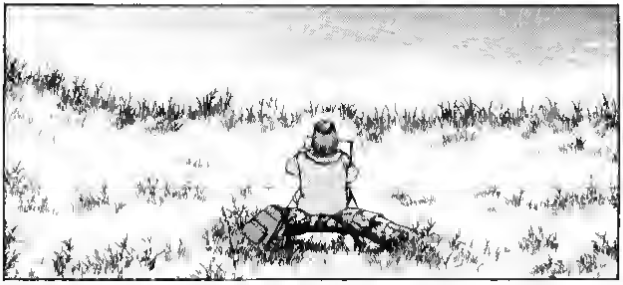
.. SHOULD I JUST SAY I DON'T KNOW HIS DAUGHTER?

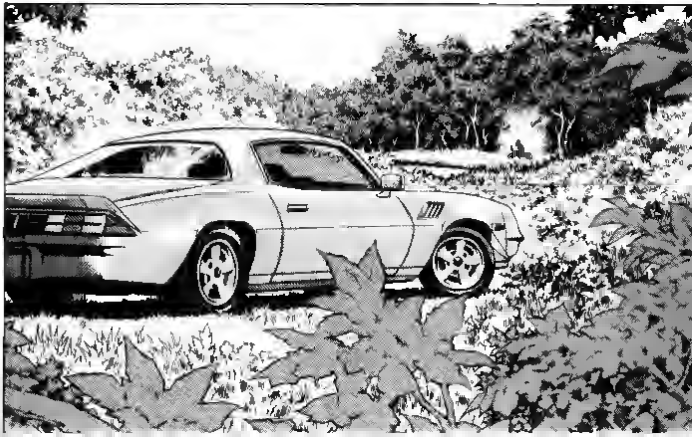
I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH HE KNOWS ABOUT ME AND SAWAKO.
NO.
HE DEFINITELY KNOWS!!
HE KNOWS...
HMM...
.. SAWAKO,
IT MIGHT TURN OUT WORSE IF LIE TO HIM HERE...

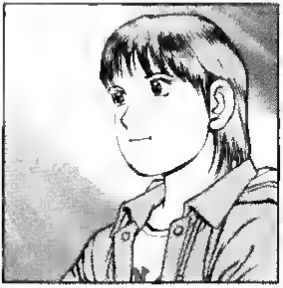
SAWAKO...
YOUR DAUGHTER, RIGHT?
YES... I SAW HER A FEW TIMES LONG AGO AT A COFFEE SHOP
YOU KNOW HER...?
I SEE, HE EVEN KNOWS ABOUT THAT...
YOU MEAN AT THE "SORAMAME" COFFEE SHOP?

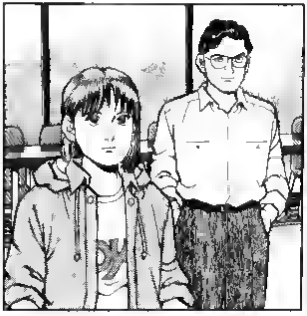
IT'S...
BUT IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I STOPPED VISITING THAT SHOP
YES, I SAW HER SOMETIMES AT "SORAMAME"
BEEN SO MANY YEARS SO...
WHAT SHOULD I SAY...?
THE PROBLEM IS THAT DAY!!
IS SAYING I JUST MET HER A FEW TIMES AT THE STORE GOOD ENOUGH?
I MIGHT HAVE BEEN REMEMBERED BY OTHER CUSTOMERS WHO SAW ME THERE
WHAT SHOULDN'T I SAY...?
I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING THAT WILL GIVE ME AWAY!

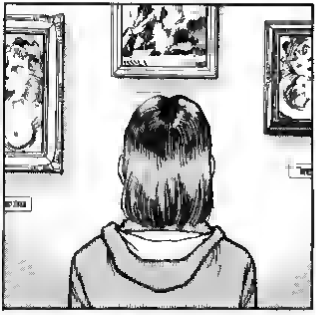
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY!!

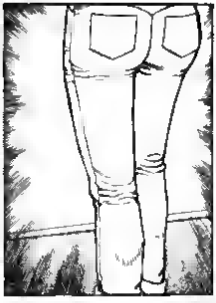


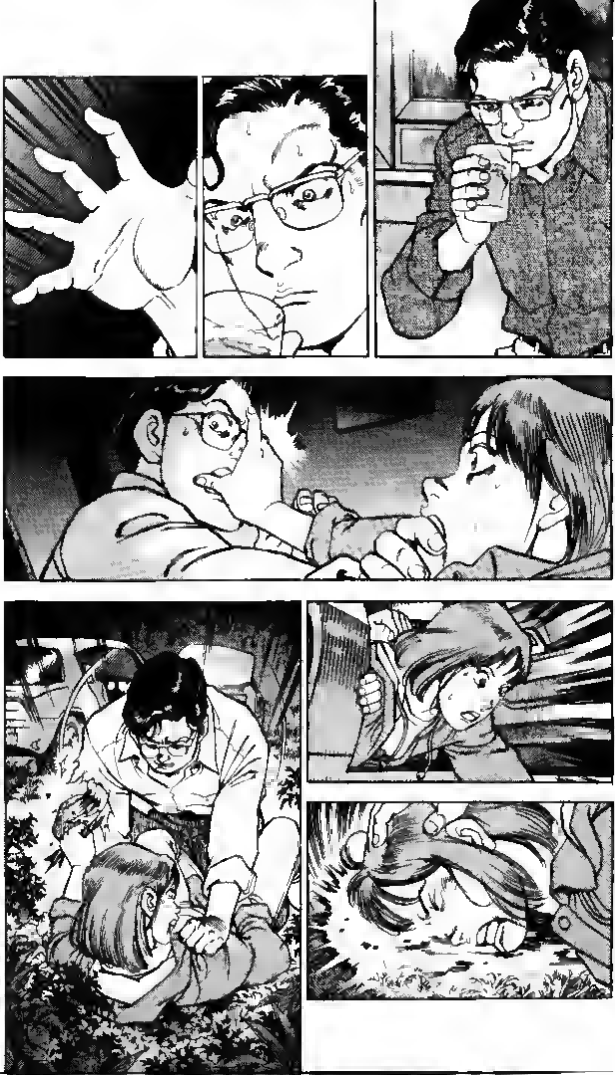






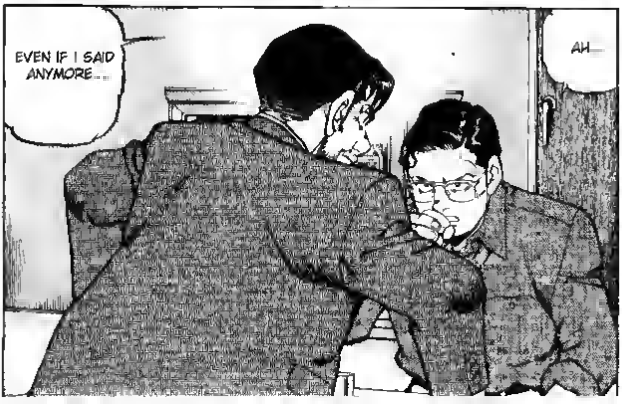




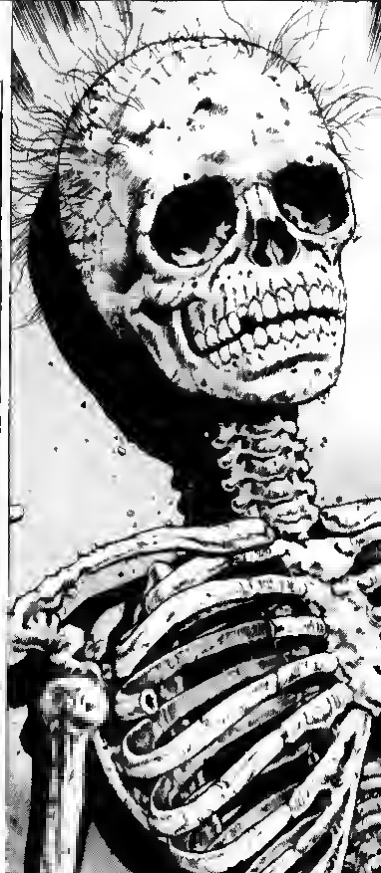


NOBODY ELSE KNOWS ANYTHING
THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY IS JUST ME AND HER
I'LL NEVER CONFESS
NEVER!!

WON'T YOU TELL ME MORE...?


EVEN IF I SAID ANYMORE...
AH...

YOU MUST KNOW...
AH, YES. THIS WAS SAWAKO.



.. WON'T YOU TELL ME MORE?
T-THIS IS...!
JUST HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW...?
CALM DOWN!!
CALM DOWN...
JUST PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER!!
DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS AND LET YOUR MOUTH SLIP!!

NAKA-MURA..
YES?
EXACTLY DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
WHAT ..
WHA...
DID YOU KNOW THAT I'M AFFLICTED WITH CANCER?
!!

Y-YES... I HAD HEARD OF IT.
YOU MUST HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE RUMOR THAT I HAD CANCER, RIGHT?
I ONLY HAVE A COUPLE MONTHS TO LIVE...
BUT...
I WASN'T SURE HOW TRUE IT WAS...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HIM SO EASILY...
NO... I CAN'T BE SURE.
IS HE TELLING THE TRUTH?

AND...
I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT
HMM?
IT'S THE TRUTH
THIS IS A COPY OF MY DIAGNOSIS
WON'T EVER BE RETURNING HOME.
AS YOU CAN SEE, EVEN MY DAUGHTER...
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY DAUGHTER...
ON THAT DAY...
I JUST WANTED TO ASK,
BEFORE I DIE...

JUST WHAT,
DID SHE WISH FOR?
WHAT DID,
SHE THINK ABOUT...
WHAT WAS TROUBLING HER...
WHAT KIND OF DREAMS,
DID SHE HAVE FOR THE FUTURE...?

I HAVE NO REGRETS ANYMORE...
I ONLY... WANTED TO KNOW JUST THAT BEFORE I DIED.

EVEN IF THE CRIMINAL...

EVEN IF...

EVEN IF I HAD TO ASK THE MAN WHO KILLED SAWAKO...

HUH?

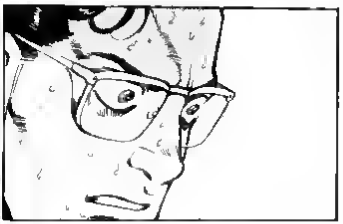
W-WHAT ARE YOU...
PLEASE STOP THIS!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!
TO BE HONEST, I BARELY KNEW HER. I REALLY ONLY SAW HER IN THAT COFFEE SHOP A FEW TIMES
WHAT?
I DON'T THINK SO...
I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH, I'VE NEVER EVEN MET HER ANYWHERE OUTSIDE THE SHOP
REALLY?

WHAT...?
IT'S BEEN FOUND...
THE TRACES OF YOUR CRIME.
IT WASN'T DESTROYED

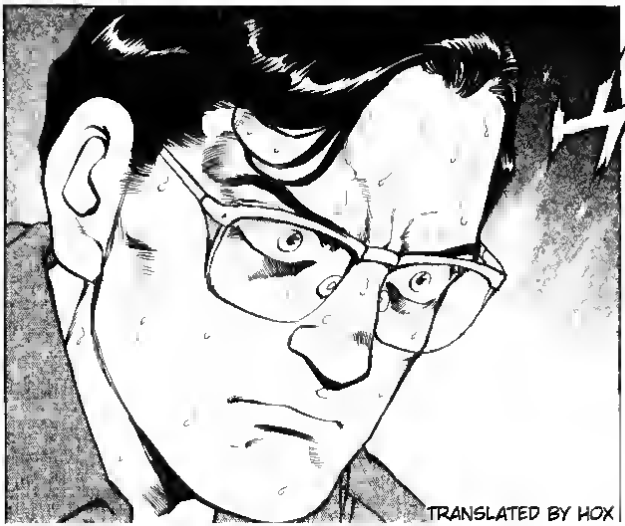
!
IMPOSSIBLE!
HOW COULD THIS BE!!

NOW WON'T YOU PLEASE TELL ME

ABOUT EVERYTHING!!



THIS CARD WAS YOUR DYING MESSAGE...
SAWAKO...
IT ENDS HERE!!
THIS IS IT...
BUT WILL THIS MAN CONFESS...?



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